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Reduced to rubble

Hurricane Michael smashes rows of houses in Florida Panhandle

BY JAY REEVES
AND BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Search and rescue teams fanned out across the Florida Panhandle to reach trapped people in Michael's wake Thursday as daylight yielded scenes of rows upon rows of houses smashed to pieces by the third-most powerful hurricane on record to hit the continental U.S.

At least two deaths were blamed on Michael,

Mishelle McPherson searches through the rubble Thursday for a friend's mother who stayed home to ride out Hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, Fla.

GERALD HENBERT/AP

Tyndall AFB leveled; other bases avoid damage [Page 6](#)

and it wasn't done yet. Though weakened into a tropical storm, it continued to bring heavy rain and blustery winds to the Southeast as it pushed inland, soaking areas still recovering from last month's Hurricane Florence.

Under a perfectly clear, blue sky, Florida families emerged tentatively from darkened shelters and hotels to an unfamiliar, perilous landscape of shattered homes and shopping centers, beeping security alarms, wailing sirens and hovering helicopters.

SEE MICHAEL ON PAGE 6

Military grounds all F-35s

Jets' engines will be inspected following recent crash in SC

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
AND COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has grounded its fleet of F-35s following a recent crash in South Carolina to inspect the fighter jets' engine fuel tubes, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

The grounding is in response to data from the ongoing investigation of the Marine Corps' F-35B Lightning II that crashed near Beaufort, S.C., on Sept. 28, according to a statement by the F-35 Joint Program Office. The pilot was able to eject safely, but the aircraft was a total loss.

"At this time, the cause of the mishap has not yet been determined," said Capt. Christopher Harrison, a U.S. Marine Corps spokesman.

SEE F-35 ON PAGE 5



An F-35A Lightning II prepares to depart on a training sortie Aug. 8 at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

TODD CHOMAR/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

WAR/MILITARY

UN sees progress in securing Afghan vote

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United Nations on Thursday said NATO-trained, local security forces are creating conditions for most eligible Afghans to vote as Afghanistan braces for a spike in violence ahead of parliamentary elections next week.

Progress has been made despite significant security challenges, the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, said in a statement.

U.S. military officials in Afghanistan have said helping Afghan forces safeguard the elections, scheduled for Oct. 20, is one of the coalition's top priorities this year. Next week's vote is already three years overdue.

But security fears have prompted speculation from analysts that voter turnout might be low. Nearly 130 civilians have already been killed in the run-up to the vote, according to U.N. data, and the Taliban have vowed to disrupt the process further.

"Any violence or intimidation



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

Ghulam Qadir speaks of parliamentary candidates he supports at his carpentry shop in Kabul on Wednesday.

directed at voters, candidates or electoral officials is totally unacceptable, and I unequivocally condemn it," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the head of UNAMA.

While American and other coalition troops are advising on security and logistics, Afghan forces are fully responsible for protecting the ballot.

"All our joint forces are or-

dered to try their best to secure the elections," Nasrat Rahimi, deputy spokesman for the Interior Ministry, told Stars and Stripes, adding that Afghan soldiers and police will be stationed at roughly 5,100 polling centers across the country on election day.

The number of polling centers was reduced from more than 7,350 due to security concerns,

according to the Independent Election Commission. Reports of fraudulent voter registration and interference by regional and local strongmen have also marred the vote.

The Taliban, who consider the election a tool to advance the interests of foreign countries, called on its supporters to halt voting throughout the country "by creating severe obstacles for it."

A statement by the insurgents on Monday added that all security personnel helping the process "should be targeted and no stone should be left unturned for the prevention and failure of this malicious American conspiracy."

UNAMA recently expressed concern that innocent people could be killed or injured in attacks on schools, health clinics and mosques, where many polling stations are located.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul on Thursday issued a warning to Americans visiting or living in the country, urging vigilance and caution in the coming weeks.

"On election day and in the period before and after, large dem-

onstrations or gatherings may occur which could become a target for attack by terrorist groups," the Embassy warning said.

Many citizens, like Wais Hamidi, 32, a tailor in Kabul, are waiting to see what the security situation will be like on election day before committing to voting.

"Our lives are the most important thing," he said. "I want to vote because if we all elect good people it could bring change to this country. But if it's dangerous, we won't go to the polls."

Ghulam Qadir, 60, a carpenter who has election posters hanging on the walls of his shop in the capital, said violence is just one concern Afghans have about the upcoming elections. While he intends to vote, he said half the people he knows are not going to, mostly because they consider parliament ineffective and corrupt.

"In Kabul people are frustrated," Qadir said. "There are a lot of problems here."

Zubair Barbakarkhal contributed to this report.
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Slain Marine was mobbed by pack of juveniles, prosecutor says

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Marine Sgt. William Michael Brown was fatally stabbed in Waikiki last year after a pack of juveniles mobbed him and his friends, Deputy Prosecutor Ashley Tanaka told a state judge Tuesday.

An Oahu grand jury returned an indictment Tuesday charging one of the juveniles, Nicholas E. Torres, with murder. Torres was 16 years old at the time of the stabbing and is 17 now. He was charged as an adult

because a state Family Court judge waived the court's jurisdiction over him last week.

Tanaka told Circuit Judge Colette Garibaldi that Brown, 23, and three friends — two men and one woman — were walking in Waikiki on Oct. 21 last year when two juvenile females approached the group and offered to sell them marijuana. That was about 1 a.m.

Brown and his friends said to the girls: "Don't you look a little young? You still have braces. What are you doing out this late?"

Tanaka said.

At that point, Tanaka said, a group of around 10 to 15 other juveniles, both boys and girls, surrounded Brown and his friends. An argument escalated into a physical fight, during which one of the juveniles grabbed Brown's female friend's purse and Torres stabbed Brown with a hunting knife, Tanaka said.

The knife punctured Brown's heart and left lung. A city ambulance transported Brown in critical condition to The Queen's

Medical Center where he later died.

Police said one of the other juveniles, a then-15-year-old boy, told them it was Torres who stabbed Brown. They recovered the knife after looking at surveillance video showing Torres bend down after the stabbing near a storm drain at the intersection of Kalakaua and Seaside avenues.

Brown was a mortarman assigned to Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe.

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MILITARY

Paratroopers investigated after friend dies

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Italian prosecutors are investigating whether four 173rd Airborne Brigade soldiers with Sgt. Kevin Connor on the night he died, possibly from alcohol poisoning, are criminally culpable.

Connor, 24, was found dead in the barracks after midnight on Oct. 1 after the soldiers called paramedics and said he had stopped breathing.

The soldiers had spent Sunday evening watching football and drinking at the Arena, the base bowling alley. By the time they left about 11 p.m., Connor could not stand on his own, according to the newspaper *Il Giornale* di Vicenza.

The other soldiers helped him into one of their rooms and placed him on his side on the bathroom floor. Shortly after, they found he wasn't breathing, according to the Italian newspaper.

Italian authorities are investi-

gating whether the group of soldiers were negligent in Connor's death, including whether they should have sought help sooner.

The men have been appointed an Italian lawyer, who could not be reached for comment Wednesday. Maj. Chris Bradley, a brigade spokesman, declined to confirm the names of the implicated soldiers.

The Army routinely requests jurisdiction in criminal cases that Italian officials bring against U.S.

soldiers. Bradley said he did not know the status of that request.

The U.S. is most often granted jurisdiction in cases on base involving only Americans.

Criminal charges resulting from alcohol poisoning deaths are rare in the military and in the United States.

The most high-profile cases have involved fraternities and hazing. In June, a former member of the Beta Theta Pi chapter at Penn State University plead-

ed guilty to nine misdemeanor charges following the death of a student who'd been forced to chug vodka, beer and wine, tumbled down a flight of stairs and was left there for hours before he died.

A Pennsylvania judge dismissed more serious charges against eight members of the fraternity, including involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and simple assault.

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Greece presses for larger US presence

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Greece has invited the U.S. to set up new bases in the country, offering up coastal northeastern cities that would place American forces at the gateway to the Black Sea and in close proximity to the Balkans.

Greek Defense Minister Panos Kammenos, during a news briefing Wednesday with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, said Athens wants the U.S. to establish a larger, more permanent presence in Greece.

While a base at Souda Bay on the island of Crete has long been a key location for the U.S. Navy, the Pentagon is welcome to build up in other Greek locales, Kammenos said.

"It is very important for Greece that the United States deploy military assets in Greece on a more permanent basis, not only in Souda Bay but also in Larissa, in Volos, in Alexandroupoli," he said.

Greece is pressing for more troops at a time when regional rival Turkey has become more unpredictable and Russia more active in Greece's neighborhood. In September, Greek officials made similar overtures during a visit by Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford.

Greece hasn't said what type of American military presence it seeks, and the U.S. hasn't signaled a desire to build anything

new. Still, Greece's calls for more cooperation have been welcomed by Mattis and Dunford.

Mattis cited a growing defense relationship "with increased joint exercises and training, expanded basing cooperation and enhanced defense-industrial partnerships."

"So thank you for your continued hosting of U.S. forces at Souda Bay, one of the most popular locations for U.S. sailors anywhere in the world," Mattis said Wednesday.

The statements on Wednesday marked the first time Greece has publicly offered specific locations for basing in a meeting with U.S. defense officials.

Both Alexandroupoli and Volos are port cities on the Aegean Sea that would give the U.S. military a stronger foothold in a region viewed by the Pentagon as growing in strategic importance.

In addition to Souda Bay, the U.S. operates MQ-9 Reaper drones out of Greece's Larissa Air Force Base. Kammenos also said the U.S. can grow at Larissa, which gives the U.S. a surveillance outpost that can reach into Syria, northern Africa and the Black Sea region.

Greece joins fellow NATO member Poland as countries clamoring for more U.S. troops. Poland is pushing for a permanent military base and combat troops because of concerns about Russia. U.S. military leaders say they are reviewing Warsaw's proposal.

While the U.S. military and



EVAN THOMPSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 1st Class Adam Foti stands watch aboard the destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill as the ship departs Souda Bay, Greece, on Tuesday.

NATO have focused much of their attention on the eastern flank of Russia in places like the Baltics and Poland, the greater Black Sea region also is regarded by some security analysts and military officials as a potential flashpoint with Russia.

NATO of late has kept a close eye on Russia's moves in southern Europe, where there have been discussions within the alliance about setting up a Black Sea naval flotilla. So far, those efforts have failed to gain traction.

However, allies have noted Russia's more assertive stance in

the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, where U.S. Navy leaders have said Russian patrols are occurring at levels not seen since the Cold War.

Russia's access to the Mediterranean runs from the Black Sea, through Turkey's Sea of Marmara and into the Aegean Sea.

In recent years, the Greek government has had solid relations with Moscow, but there are new tensions. Turkey's closer ties with Russia also could factor into Athens' push for closer military ties with the U.S.

In July, Athens expelled two

Russian diplomats after allegations that Moscow was undermining a political deal between Greece and Macedonia to enable the western Balkan state to join NATO.

"We applaud Greece's stalwart commitment to protecting democratic values by expelling Russian diplomats," Mattis said. "In doing so, Greece made clear that the birthplace of democracy would not tolerate reckless violation and disrespect for international norms and your sovereignty."

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IBM protests Pentagon cloud contract expected to favor Amazon

By NAOMI NIX
Bloomberg

IBM Corp. said it has filed a protest against the Pentagon's planned winner-take-all cloud computing contract because it restricts the field of competition.

"Throughout the year-long [Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure] saga, countless concerns have been raised that this solicitation is aimed at a specific vendor," Sam Gordy, general manager of IBM U.S. Federal, wrote on a company blog Wednesday. "At no point have steps been taken to

alleviate those concerns."

IBM follows Oracle Corp. as the second technology company to challenge the Pentagon's JEDI contract — valued at as much as \$10 billion — which is widely seen as favoring Amazon.com, the dominant cloud-services provider. The move increases pressure on the Defense Department to defend its requirements for the contract.

The project involves moving massive amounts of Defense Department data to a commercially operated cloud system. Companies are due to submit proposals Friday.

Companies including IBM, Oracle and

Microsoft have opposed a winner-take-all award, arguing it will stifle innovation and raise security risks for the Pentagon.

"We firmly believe in our heart of our hearts, in our technical background, that the single-cloud approach is the wrong approach," IBM's Gordy said in an interview. "We believe America's warfighters deserve the best, not just good."

He described IBM's protest as a "last-ditch effort for sanity to prevail" in the JEDI procurement process.

Asked about the IBM protest, Heather Babb, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said the

department doesn't comment on pending litigation.

At least nine companies have at some point coordinated their opposition in Washington to the government awarding the contract to a single provider, Bloomberg News has reported.

The Defense Department has said that making multiple awards under current acquisition law would be a slow process that "could prevent DoD from rapidly delivering new capabilities and improved effectiveness to the warfighter that enterprised-level cloud computing can enable."

PACIFIC

Garrison holds first full-scale base exercise

By MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — About 300 U.S. and South Korean first responders practiced evacuating families from homes and used saws and hammers to pry victims from car crashes in an exercise at the Army's newly unified garrison for bases north of Seoul this week.

The four-day drill, which ends Friday, tested emergency services at K-16 Air Base, Yongsan Garrison and Camp Casey, the three major installations maintained by what is now officially known as U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan-Casey.

Jon Blevins, the garrison's emergency manager, said the goal is to make sure crews are ready to respond to scenarios ranging from potential intruders to natural disasters like a typhoon that threatened the area in August.

"The idea is you get everyone involved and go through the whole process," he told Stars and Stripes on Thursday. "If you need to send a dump truck somewhere to pick something up because it's storm debris, then you should actually have the guy get into that truck, take the dump truck to that location, and then take something back to prove that you can do it in coordination with other elements."

Blevins added that such exercises, combined with real-life lessons from events like Typhoon Soulik, keep first responders prepared for both turning the lights off in responding to an emergen-



MARCUS FICHTL/Stars and Stripes

Above: A firefighter saws through a car windshield at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea, on Thursday. Left: Firefighters rescue people from a vehicle during an exercise.

cy and turning them back on to restore normal operations.

That was on display Thursday at Yongsan, a sprawling base in the heart of Seoul. Emergency crews evacuated soldiers acting as families from their houses, then took them to a support center that could address their needs. Firefighters and police responded to car crashes, using saws and hammers to rescue people from burning vehicles.

Simultaneously, Blevins and his

team were managing crashes and fires at K-16 and Camp Casey.

A key difference in the drills this year is the rapidly declining population of the bases as most U.S. forces are being relocated to a newly expanded Camp Humphreys. That means fewer people to spot a crisis.

Those gaps were the focus for a visiting evaluation team from Humphreys led by that base's director of emergency services, Charles Walker.

"It's difficult keeping people in the mindset that you have to maintain vigilance even though you are closing," he said. "Reducing is not an excuse to reduce the standards. That's what terrorists and personnel who want to do harm want."

Yongsan-Casey combines a front-line area of bases in what was formally known as Area I and Area II — an administrative streamlining for a region that stretches nearly 80 miles south of

the heavily fortified border with North Korea.

Blevins said as demographics change they are focusing on ensuring they will continue to have the "right balance."

The garrison needs to maintain a proper police and fire presence while also knowing when to use local services like the main U.S. military hospital — like it did at Yongsan this week — or when to call for help from South Korean agencies using mutual aid agreements — like it did at K-16 and Casey.

Walker said he liked what he saw at Yongsan-Casey this week.

"What they do now is what they're going to do if something happens," he said. "You have to train as you fight."

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Marine spouse aims for US record in Decaman race

By AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Marine Corps spouse on Okinawa has set her sights on beating the American record for a grueling invitation-only race that requires competitors to swim, bike and run a combined 1,406 miles within 13 days.

Alyx Ulbrich, 30, is among 16 athletes from around the world — and only five from the United States — competing in the inaugural Decaman USA race Nov. 6 in New Orleans.

Participants in her category — known as "Classic DECA" — will start off by swimming 24 miles in a 50-meter pool at the University of New Orleans. That will be followed by a 1,120-mile bike ride and a 262-mile run at Fontainebleau State Park.

Compare that with a typical Ironman race, which consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 262-mile run with no break. Decaman USA also has a 1x10 category requiring competitors to finish one Ironman race a day for 10 days in a row.

"I wanted to try something that I don't know if I can finish," Ulbrich recently told Stars and Stripes. "I don't know if I am physically capable or not. That interested me."

Ulbrich — who had to submit a race resume, doctor's note and medical records to qualify for Decaman USA — is no stranger to tough competition. Last month, she was the top female and second overall finisher in the Wildcat 100 — a 100-mile ultramarathon in Pensacola, Fla., finishing in 28 hours, 11 minutes. In August, she placed first among women and third overall in the 8 Hours of



AYA ICHIHASHI/Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps spouse Alyx Ulbrich will compete in the inaugural Decaman USA race Nov. 6 in New Orleans.

Hell Racing Series in Southwest Florida.

"It was great practice (for Decaman). I am entering another Ironman race in Taiwan this weekend," she said prior to an event in which she finished second in her age group in 10 hours, 25 minutes.

Ulbrich said she typically rises daily at 5 a.m. to load up on carbs and run, bike and swim between four and six hours. Later, she runs an additional two to three hours or lift weights.

Her husband, Capt. Kristopher Ulbrich, 30, of Combat Logistics Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, supports the upcoming challenge.

"My initial thought was Decaman is a tough race — one of the toughest out there — and my wife is one of the toughest people I know," he recently told Stars and Stripes via Facebook Messenger. "It was only a matter of time until the two met."

Capt. Ulbrich, who is deployed to Iraq until mid-December, said his biggest concern is whether his wife's body holds together long enough to complete the challenge. And, since he'll be in Iraq, he won't be able to "be there by her side during the race."

Ulbrich is also being encouraged by fellow military spouses Jessica Merritt, Tamara Webb and Meghan Gebke, who often join her for training.

"I have a great support of friends who helped me to train," she said. "Because of these ladies, four to six hours of biking, running and swimming is more enjoyable."

During Decaman, it'll be up to each competitor to decide when to take breaks, eat or sleep. Along with a 30-minute midday nap, Ulbrich said she plans to sleep three to four hours each day of the competition. She also has a secret power food: onigiri, or Japanese rice balls.

"I am vegan and my main diet is rice and vegetables," she said. "I will be eating a lot of rice balls during the race."

While Ulbrich is aiming to beat the Decaman's top U.S. finish time of 13 days, she hasn't ruled out taking a shot at the 10-day world record.

"I think I can do it, and I am confident that I am going to do it," she said. "If I can't, then I am going to find out."

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NATION

Report: Obesity hurts national security

By HUGH LESSIG

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

Eight years after publishing a report titled "Too Fat to Fight," a group of retired admirals and generals said Wednesday that obesity continues to threaten national security.

The group, Mission: Readiness, said obesity disqualifies 31 percent of young Americans from military service, up from 27 percent eight years ago. The new report, "Unhealthy and Unprepared," cites Defense Department data and independent studies.

The group has been beating this drum for years. It followed "Too Fat To Fight" in 2010 two years later with a study called "Still Too Fat To Fight." In 2014, it published "Retreat Is Not An Option," which offered much the same picture.

The obesity problem is part of a larger concern. Overall, about 71 percent of Americans in that 17- to 24 age group do not qualify for military service due to criminal records, a poor education or other factors that include obesity.

National statistics offer little evidence of a turnaround, although one member of Mission: Readiness sees reason for hope at the state and local level.

"Childhood obesity in some states ... is not getting worse and may be in some cases getting better," said retired Army Lt. Gen. Thomas Spoehr, a College of William and Mary graduate who now serves with The Heritage Foundation, a conservative public

policy think tank.

Although nearly one-third of Americans between the ages of 17 and 24 are too overweight to serve, the problem begins in childhood, the study says. The obesity rate among 2-year-old children is 14 percent; it climbs to 18 percent in the 6- to 11 age group.

The study points to preschools and child care centers as the first line of attack against childhood obesity.

It cites the Child and Adult Care Food Program as an example of good public policy. The program provides financial support for child care and other providers to receive nutritious meals and snacks.

School cafeterias are another battleground. New standards in the National School Lunch Program have increased fruit and vegetable consumption by 16 and 23 percent respectively, the study says.

Spoehr suggested schools should get more serious about recreation, providing students with more time for physical activity.

Ultimately, he said, overarching federal solutions may not be the best answer.

The group has been effective at the state level, where elected officials and policymakers are closer to the problem, he said. Then it's just a matter of replicating what works.

"You get successes and you build on those," he said.

The Army recently announced it had missed its recruiting goal

for 2018, the first time that's happened since 2005. It had hoped to sign up 76,500 recruits and fell short by 6,500.

Army leaders pointed to the stronger economy as one reason why fewer young Americans are looking to the military for a career. But obesity and other fac-

tors limit the pool of available recruits, and the concerns don't stop there. Some active-duty troops also need to shape up.

"Service members are not immune from the nationwide rise in obesity," the report states.

In 2015, 7.8 percent of active-duty servicemembers were con-

sidered overweight based on height and weight. That represented a 73 percent increase since 2011. Each year, the Defense Department spends \$1.5 billion on health care related to obesity, although that covers active-duty and former servicemembers and their families.



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F-35: Inspections expected to be completed within 48 hours

FROM FRONT PAGE

However, the inspections are looking at a certain kind of fuel tube that is estimated to be in about half the F-35 fleet, U.S. officials told The Washington Post. There are more than 340 F-35s being used now by the U.S. and other countries.

The Marine Corps and the Air Force have confirmed the grounding of their F-35s is a precaution so the aircraft can be inspected.

"If suspect fuel tubes are installed, the part will be removed and replaced," according to the Joint Program Office statement. "If known good fuel tubes are already installed, then those aircraft will be returned to flight status."

Inspections are expected to be completed within the next 24 to 48 hours.

A day before the crash in South Carolina, another Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II was used in its first U.S. combat mission to strike a Taliban target in Afghanistan.

The Joint Program Office statement included "international partners" in the flight operation grounding, though the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence

tweeted they have only "paused some F-35 flying as a precautionary measure while we consider the findings of an ongoing enquiry."

The F-35 program, the most expensive weapon in U.S. military history, has been marred by delays and cost overruns and other mechanical issues. The F-35 program is expected to cost the Pentagon about \$406 billion for 2,456 fighter jets that the services intend to buy, according to the Joint Program Office.

Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, chairman of a House Armed Services Committee subpanel, said Thursday that he received a briefing from the Marine Corps on the crash in Beaufort.

"From the ongoing investigation, I am glad that the Department of Defense took swift and decisive action to keep the F-35 fleet and its pilots safe," said Turner, who is chairman of the House Armed Services Committee on tactical air and land forces.

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NATION

Rubble: Blocks of homes obliterated by hurricane

FROM FRONT PAGE

The full extent of the damage was only slowly becoming clear with some of the stricken areas difficult to reach because of roads blocked by debris or water. An 80-mile stretch of Interstate 10, the main east-west route along the Panhandle, was closed.

Some of the worst damage was in Mexico Beach, where Michael crashed ashore Wednesday as a Category 4 monster with 155 mph winds and a storm surge of 9 feet. Video from a drone Thursday revealed widespread devastation across the town of about 1,000 people.

Entire blocks of homes near the beach were obliterated, leaving nothing but concrete slabs in the sand. Rows and rows of other homes were reduced to piles of splintered debris or were crumpled and slumped at odd angles.

A National Guard team got into Mexico Beach and found 20 survivors overnight, and more crews were pushing into the area in the morning, with the fate of many residents unknown.

Authorities said 285 people in Mexico Beach had refused to leave ahead of the hurricane despite a mandatory evacuation order.

Mishelle McPherson and her ex-husband searched for the elderly mother of a friend. The woman lived in a small cinder-block house about 150 yards from the Gulf and thought she would be OK.

Her home was reduced to crumbled cinderblocks and pieces of floor tile.

"Aggy! Aggy!" McPherson yelled. The only sound that came back was the echo from the half-demolished building and the pounding of the surf.

"Do you think her body would be here? Do you think it would have floated away?" she asked.

As she walked down the street, McPherson pointed out pieces of what had been the woman's house. "That's the blade from her ceiling fan. That's her floor tile."

The beach town was difficult to reach by land, with roads covered by fallen trees, power lines and other debris.

The governor pleaded with people in the hard-hit areas to stay away from now.

"I know you just want to go home. You want to check on things, and begin the recovery process," Gov. Rick Scott said. But "we have to make sure things are safe."

More than 900,000 homes and businesses in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas were without power.

Thousands of National Guard troops, law enforcement officers and medical teams began making their way across the stricken zone.

The Coast Guard said it rescued at least 27 people before and after the hurricane came ashore, mostly from homes along the Florida coastline, and searched for more victims.

Among those brought to safety were nine people rescued by helicopter from a bathroom of their Panama City home after their roof collapsed, Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronald Hodges said.

The hurricane damaged hospitals and nursing homes in the Panama City area, and officials worked to evacuate hundreds of patients. The damage at Bay Medical Sacred Heart included blown-out windows, a cracked exterior wall and a roof collapse in a maintenance building. No patients were hurt, the hospital said.

The state mental hospital in Chattahoochee, which has a section for the criminally insane, was cut off by land, and food and supplies were being flown in, authorities said.

As of 11 a.m., Michael was centered about 35 miles south of Charlotte, N.C., with winds of 50 mph. It was moving northeast at 23 mph.

Forecasters said it could drop up to 7 inches of rain over the Carolinas and Virginia before pushing out to sea Thursday night.

In North Carolina, still struggling to recover after Florence, up to 6 inches of rain had fallen in the mountains by Thursday morning, and people had to be rescued from cars trapped in high water.

"For North Carolina, Michael isn't as bad as Florence, but it adds unwelcome insult to injury, so we must be on alert," Gov. Roy Cooper said.

Along the 200-mile Panhandle, Michael washed away white-sand beaches, hammered military bases and destroyed coastal communities, stripping trees to stalks, shredding roofs, toppling trucks and pushing boats into buildings.

Authorities said a falling tree killed a man outside Tallahassee, Fla., and an 11-year-old girl in Georgia was killed when the winds picked up a carport and dropped it on her home. One of the carport's legs punctured the roof and hit her in the head.

An Associated Press team drove for miles and encountered extensive destruction around Panama City.

Though most homes were still standing, no property was left undamaged.

Downed power lines lay neatly everywhere. Roofs were peeled away and sent airborne. Aluminum siding was shredded to ribbons. Homes were split open by fallen trees.

Hundreds of cars had broken windows. Twisted street signs lay on the ground. Pine trees were stripped and snapped off about 20 feet high.

More than 375,000 people up and down the Gulf Coast were ordered or urged to clear out as Michael closed in. But it moved so fast and intensified so quickly that people didn't have much time to prepare, and emergency authorities lamented that many ignored the warnings.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

A boat sits amidst debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, Fla., on Thursday.



PEDRO PORTAL, MIAMI HERALD/AP

Brian Bon inspects damage in the Panama City, Fla., downtown area after Hurricane Michael made landfall in Panama City on Wednesday.

Tyndall suffers 'catastrophic' damage

By COREY DICKSTEIN
AND CATLIN KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

For additional information on Hurricane Michael's impact, go to stripes.com



WASHINGTON — Tyndall Air Force Base sustained "catastrophic" damage as Hurricane Michael struck the Florida installation head-on, destroying buildings and potentially leaving the post vacant for weeks, Air Force officials said Thursday.

The Category 4 storm, the strongest to ever hit the Florida Panhandle, tore roofing from aircraft hangars and mangled buildings at Tyndall, just outside Panama City, Fla., according to Air Force officials. Assessment of the storm's impact was just beginning Thursday, but officials already had reported "widespread catastrophic damage" primarily from winds that exceeded 150 mph.

Hurricane Michael, downgraded to a tropical storm Thursday as it raced into the Carolinas, was blamed for at least two deaths after it left a trail of devastation across

northern Florida and Georgia. Other military installations in its path seemed to have been spared major devastation, according to several defense officials.

Teams tasked with assessing and cleaning up damage to Tyndall were staged at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., on Thursday morning, awaiting word on when it was safe for them to travel, one official said.

For now, Tyndall officials have warned those who evacuated to stay away as they develop plans to reopen the base, home to the 325th Fighter Wing.

"At this point, Tyndall residents and evacuated personnel should remain at their safe location," Col. Brian Laidlaw, the wing's commander, said in a post on Tyndall's Facebook page. "We are actively developing plans to reunite families and plan to pro-

vide safe passage back to base housing."

As of Thursday, no injuries were reported on the base, which was under a mandatory evacuation order since Tuesday. All of the aircraft assigned to the base were evacuated ahead of the storm to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Carswell Air Force Base in Texas.

Meanwhile, the Florida National Guard began moving into impacted areas for rescue and clearance operations. Florida Gov. Rick Scott activated 2,500 National Guard troops ahead of the storm. In Georgia, 1,500 National Guard troops were activated to aid in response efforts.

Other military installations in the area were returning to normal operations or expecting to do so, while officials at bases in North Carolina continued to watch the storm's path.

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NATION



GERALD HERNERT/AP

Derailed box cars are seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in Panama City, Fla., on Wednesday.

How Michael grew into 155 mph monster storm

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Moist air, warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico and ideal wind patterns supercharged Hurricane Michael in the hours before it smacked Florida's Panhandle.

Hurricane Michael was barely a hurricane Tuesday morning, with winds of 90 mph. A little over a day later, it had transformed into a monster. When it made landfall Wednesday afternoon, it was blowing at 155 mph. That's a 72 percent increase in wind speed in less than 33 hours.

"Michael saw our worst fears realized, of rapid intensification just before landfall on a part of a coastline that has never experienced a Category 4 hurricane," University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy said

Wednesday morning.

Hurricanes have something called a potential intensity. That's how strong a storm can get if all other factors are aligned, said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate and hurricane expert Jim Kossin. Michael had nothing holding it back.

"Everything was there for it to reach its potential and it did," Kossin said.

As Michael's eye started coming ashore, it boasted the third-lowest central pressure of any storm to hit the United States, behind only a 1935 Labor Day storm and 1969's Camille.

Meteorologists first got a sense something big could be happening by watching how Michael's eye changed shape. Early Tuesday, it was oddly shaped and ragged. Later in the morning it started to get better organized, and by

Tuesday night real-time satellite imagery was showing the eye getting stronger and scarier by the minute.

Another factor is its pressure, the measurement meteorologists use to gauge a hurricane's strength. The lower the pressure, the stronger the storm. Before landfall, Michael's pressure fell so low it looked like the winds were sure to pick up fast, said Ryan Maue, a meteorologist for weathermodels.com.

And none of the factors that hold a storm back was present, especially something called "wind shear." Wind shear is when there's a mismatch either in speed or direction between winds near the surface and those 5 to 6 miles up.

That mismatch "pushes the storm over" or decapitates it, Kossin said. When the wind shear

Strongest US hurricanes at landfall

The lower the central pressure of a hurricane, the stronger the storm. By central pressure, Michael's 919 mb made it the third-strongest hurricane to hit the continental United States. By wind speed, Michael's 155 mph made it the fourth-strongest.

STRONGEST CONTINENTAL US HURRICANES

By central pressure

Labor Day	1935	892 mb
Camille	1969	900
Michael	2018	919
Andrew	1992	922
Indianola	1886	925

By wind speed

Labor Day	1935	184 mph
Camille	1969	173
Andrew	1992	167
Michael	2018	155
Last Island	1856	150
Indianola	1886	150
Florida Keys	1919	150
Freeport	1932	150
Charley	2004	150

SOURCE: NOAA

near Michael eased, the storm took off, he said.

"It's kind of like someone was holding on to it when it was trying to run and they let it go," Kossin said.

Another huge factor was the water temperature. Warm water is the energy that fuels hurricanes, and the Gulf water is 4 to 5 degrees warmer than normal.

Water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico vary along with weather, but some scientists said the warm waters are signs of human-caused climate change.

"Have humans contributed to how dangerous Michael is?" Kossin said. "Now we can look at how warm the waters are and that certainly has contributed to

how intense Michael is and its intensification."

The warm waters, Kossin said, are a "human fingerprint" of climate change.

Kossin and others have a study out this month in the Journal of Climate with computer simulations showing that human-caused global warming will increase rapid intensification of tropical weather across the globe in the future.

Other studies have shown rapid intensification has already increased over past decades. One study this year in Geophysical Research Letters found that since 1986, the rate of intensification of storms like Michael has increased by about 13 mph.

Rare, hurricane-spawned mosquitoes swarm North Carolina bases

By WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

Thousands of rare mosquitoes spawned in the wake of Hurricane Florence are swarming service-members in bases across North Carolina, causing some training to be cut back while troops wait out the winged apocalypse.

The mosquito in question, *Psorophora ciliata*, is bigger than most other species and is known for its vicious nature, said Army Capt. Neil Milan, an entomologist at Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, N.C. It is wreaking havoc across the state.

"If they want to bite you, they will get to you," Milan said. "They are some of the largest mosquitoes, one of the fastest breeding and one of the strongest and most aggressive flyers in the mosquito world. If you were trying to pick out an angry mosquito, it would be this guy."

In addition to their size — about a centimeter for the body alone — the "shaggy legged gallinipper," as it is commonly known, has hairy black-and-white striped legs and large mouth parts that can easily pierce through most clothing. It commonly attacks in swarms.

If that wasn't bad enough, they

are also resistant to DEET and permethrin, two chemicals commonly recommended by both the Army and the Marine Corps to repel biting insects. Their flying strength allows them to keep up with human hosts, even if they are running away.

"Some of the training here has been affected," Milan said. "Some of the soldiers here don't want to leave the garrison or their tents; they just don't want to be outside."

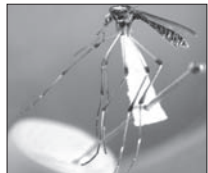
The gallinippers are not known to carry any diseases that affect humans. The bugs are known, however, to carry heartworms, parasites that affect dogs.

The mosquitoes breed after major flooding and lay their eggs in mud puddles. The puddles dry up and the eggs remain in stasis until activated again by water, usually provided by a natural disaster such as a hurricane.

That means in about a week and a half, the bases on North Carolina may be hosting the swarms again.

"I expect we will have one more event this year," Milan said this week. "Unfortunately for Fort Bragg, we're about to be hit by (Tropical Storm) Michael."

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JOHN A. STOFFER/Walter Reed Biocystematics Unit

The mosquito *psorophora ciliata* is bigger than most other species and is known for its vicious nature.

NATION

Guam pushes for native-only vote on US ties

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
Associated Press

HONOLULU — The question before a panel of U.S. appeals court judges: Should non-native residents of Guam have a say in the territory's future relationship with the U.S.?

Three judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals were at the University of Hawaii's law school Wednesday to listen to arguments in an appeal of a federal judge's 2017 ruling that says limiting the vote to those who are considered native inhabitants of the island is unconstitutional.

Voters would have three choices: independence, statehood and free association with the U.S. similar to island states that allow the U.S. exclusive military access to their land and waters while their citizens have the right to live and work in the U.S.

Arnold Davis, a white, non-Chamorro

resident of Guam, sued in 2011 after his application to participate in the vote was denied.

Last year's ruling concluded that even though Guam has a long history of colonization and its people have a right to determine their political status with the U.S., it's unconstitutional to exclude voters simply because they "do not have the correct ancestry or bloodline."

The ruling cites a 2000 U.S. Supreme Court decision that allows non-Native Hawaiians to vote in elections for Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees.

Guam appealed.

The vote would only be a "symbolic, but no less sacred, nonbinding expression of a political opinion of a subset of Guam," Julian Aguon, an attorney representing Guam, argued Wednesday.

The vote would have ramifications

for all who live on the island, said Davis' attorney, Lucas Townsend. "This is a taxpayer-funded, government-sponsored vote involving the territory's election machinery," he said.

Guam plans to submit results to the U.S. president, Congress and the United Nations, Townsend said.

Voters wouldn't be limited based on their race, but would include only those who were granted U.S. citizenship through the 1950 Guam Organic Act and their descendants, Aguon said. Court documents in the case cite 1950 census data showing that the vast majority of the noncitizens on Guam at the time were Chamorro.

About one-third of the U.S. territory's 160,000 people identify as Chamorro, the indigenous group that is believed to have migrated to Guam from Indonesia and the Philippines an estimated 3,500 to 4,000

years ago. The U.S. took control of Guam in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. The Navy ruled the island until Japan took control in 1941. The U.S. installed civilian leadership and granted citizenship to Guam residents in 1950.

It's not clear when the judges will issue a ruling.

Upholding the lower-court ruling effectively will end Guam's self-determination effort, Aguon said after the hearing.

"This case is so important because it's about defending the sacred right of self-determination, even if it's a symbolic vote," he said. "It really matters to the community. Guam has been colonized for hundreds of years, and this would finally give us some semblance of dignity to be able to have just this nonbinding vote. And that's what it means to me as a Chamorro as well."



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., left, shakes hands with Republican former state Rep. Mike Braun following a race debate Monday in Westville, Ind.

Senator's family business uses import practice he criticizes

By BRIAN SLODYSKY
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — In the high-stakes battle for a pivotal Indiana Senate seat, Democrat Joe Donnelly repeatedly has attacked his opponent, multimillionaire auto-parts magnate Mike Braun, for importing the products he sells from China.

It's a potent issue for the incumbent senator in a manufacturing powerhouse state where "made in America" is an identity — not just a slogan — and railing against foreign outsourcing helped President Donald Trump rack up a win by 19 percentage points.

Yet for Donnelly, whose neck-and-neck race with Braun could help determine which party controls the Senate, it ignores one inconvenient detail. Stewart Super Corp., a family business that he owned stock in, also has received repeated shipments of goods from China for much of

this decade, records reviewed by The Associated Press show.

That makes Donnelly susceptible to charges of hypocrisy while undercutting one of his main attacks on Braun before an election in which working-class support will be crucial. It's also likely to ratchet up a GOP onslaught that already was intensifying after Donnelly cast a "no" vote against Trump's second Supreme Court pick, Brett Kavanaugh.

Donnelly's campaign did not directly address the shipments, but noted that the senator sold his stock in the company last year and donated \$17,410 in proceeds to charity.

Spokesman Will Baskin-Gerwitz also attacked Braun, who he said "continues to lie repeatedly about the fact that he profits every single day from Chinese labor at the expense of Hoosier workers."

Stewart Superior's imports from China, which have been re-

entered in attack ads, are minuscule when compared to the goods Braun regularly receives from the country.

Between 2011 and 2017, a time when Donnelly owned as much as \$50,000 in company stock, Stewart Superior received more than 120,000 pounds of Chinese materials, spread out across more than 20 shipments, according to the website Panjiva, which tracks international trade. He collected dividend payments in 2016 worth between \$15,001 and \$50,000, according to Senate financial disclosures.

In comparison, Braun's auto-parts empire, which employs 850 workers at 70 locations across the U.S., obtains Chinese goods through intermediary companies that have imported thousands of shipments in recent years. His stock income from the business was \$4.5 million last year, records show.

VA chief won't share documents that could show Mar-a-Lago link

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has yet to share documentation that some lawmakers suspect could link agency officials to three members of President Donald Trump's club in Palm Beach, Fla., who were reported to have major influence over policies on veterans.

Minnesota Rep. Tim Walz, ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, requested the information following a ProPublica investigation in August that identified three Mar-a-Lago members with no U.S. military experience who shaped Trump's veterans policies in secret. The report prompted widespread outcry from Democrats and veterans organizations.

But in a recent letter, Wilkie said he will not hand over information to Congress that could help reveal the extent of the outside influence. Walz accused Wilkie on Tuesday of stonewalling the American public.

"VA's refusal to cooperate with this inquiry is absolutely unacceptable," he said in a statement. "The reports of corruption and cronyism are serious and we cannot allow VA to sweep this under the rug."

Walz requested copies of any correspondence between current and former VA employees and the three men: Marvel Entertainment Chairman Ike Perlmutter, lawyer Marc Sherman and Bruce Moskowitz, a Palm Beach doctor. He also asked for any records of VA employees traveling to Mar-a-Lago, along with the cost of each trip. He wanted a response by Aug. 31.

In a short letter Sept. 14, Wilkie refused to hand over the documentation, citing ongoing litigation. VoteVets, a liberal advocacy



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie testifies Sept. 26 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

group, filed a lawsuit in August against Wilkie. VoteVets argues the existence of the secret council broke the Federal Advisory Committee Act, a law that requires transparency of outside advisory groups.

"I want to assure you that VA takes very seriously its responsibilities to comply with the law and its obligation to respond appropriately to congressional requests for information," Wilkie wrote to Walz. "The matters about which you inquired in your letter are the subject of ongoing litigation alleging violations of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and, therefore, not appropriate for release at this time."

Walz wrote back Tuesday, claiming the VA was hiding behind the lawsuit.

"Your letter reads as a transparent attempt to stonewall not only a member of Congress, but also the American public, on a matter of significant importance to our nation's veterans," Walz wrote.

The fight appears to have come to a halt for now. Democrats, the minority party, don't have the power to subpoena the documents.

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NATION



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Herb Stapleton, right, FBI assistant special agent in charge, speaks alongside U.S. Attorney Benjamin C. Glassman at a news conference Wednesday in Cincinnati regarding charges brought against a Chinese spy accused of attempting to steal trade secrets.

Authorities: Chinese spy tried to steal US aviation trade secrets

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO
AND ANGIE WANG
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Chinese spy who allegedly attempted to steal trade secrets from several American aviation and aerospace companies was charged Wednesday and extradited to the U.S.

Yanjun Xu, an operative of the Chinese Ministry of State Security, is accused of recruiting experts who worked at aviation companies and paying them stipends to travel to China in order to obtain trade secrets, the Justice Department said.

From 2013 until he was arrested in April, Xu would recruit employees from major aerospace companies, including GE Aviation, and persuade them to travel to China under the guise that they would give a presentation at a university, prosecutors said. Court papers document how Xu and other intelligence operatives planned to obtain "highly sensitive information" from the experts.

Xu was indicted Wednesday on four counts of conspiring and attempting to commit espionage and theft of trade secrets.

Federal authorities said it's the first time that a Chinese Ministry of State Security intelligence officer has been extradited to the United States for trial.

John Demers, the assistant attorney general in charge of national security, said the case was a "significant economic espionage matter" and was the latest proof that China is trying to steal information from American companies.

China said Thursday the accusations were "made out of thin air."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang dismissed the allegations and called on the U.S. to deal with the matter "fairly in accordance with law" and ensure Xu's "legitimate rights and interests."

"The U.S. accusation is something made out of thin air," Lu told reporters at a daily news briefing. Benjamin Glassman, U.S. attorney for Ohio's southern district, said no military information was targeted, but any attempt by other countries to "grow companies at America's expense" is considered a threat to national security.

According to the indictment, Xu recruited a GE Aviation employee, who sent him a presentation in February that contained the company's proprietary information. Xu later followed up with the employee asking for specific technical information and then asked the employee to meet in Europe, where he wanted the worker to provide additional information from GE, according to court papers.

Border officials alarmed by abandoned immigrants

BY ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Smugglers in recent weeks have been abandoning large groups of Guatemalan and other Central American immigrants in Arizona's harsh cactus-studded Sonoran Desert near the border with Mexico, alarming Border Patrol officials who say the trend is putting hundreds of children at risk.

Collectively, more than 1,400 immigrants have been left by smugglers in the broiling desert — or in one case in a drenching thunderstorm — in remote areas by the border since Aug. 20. One group was as large as 275 people.

"We've seen large groups in the past, but never on this scale," Tucson-based Border Patrol Agent Daniel Hernandez said. "It's definitely a serious concern because their safety is being put in jeopardy."

Hernandez said the latest case involved 61 people rescued by agents last week from rising floodwaters caused by unusually heavy rains in an isolated area and "it could have been a much, much worse situation if the rain continued."

Unlike in Texas, where people often travel in the wake of the Rio Grande, the smugglers in Arizona have been dumping groups of immigrant families on a remote dirt road running along the southern limit of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument west of the Lukeville border crossing with Mexico. Summer temperatures there can soar close to 120 degrees.

The immigrants are sometimes provided with food and water, but not always, and they often require medical care for back and ankle injuries or infections.

The traffickers have "no regard for the safety and well-being of these families," Tucson Sector Chief Rodolfo Karisch said last week.

Two larger groups of immigrants from Guatemala and Honduras were also found abandoned last week near Yuma. Border Patrol officers said 108 people were found just before midnight Oct. 2 a half-mile west of the San



MATT YORK/AP

U.S. Border Patrol Senior Agent Sean King patrols a trail in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument near Lukeville, Ariz., in 2006. An increasing number of immigrants are being found abandoned there.

Luis Port of Entry, and five hours later agents apprehended 56 Central Americans a mile east of the same border crossing.

While Mexican men traveling without relatives once made up the bulk of the immigrants, Guatemalans and other Central Americans traveling in families or as unaccompanied minors are now the norm.

U.S. Immigration and Control Enforcement in Arizona began releasing hundreds of people Sunday to await court dates, saying it didn't have the capacity to hold an "incredibly high volume" of immigrant families showing up at the border.

Republican Sen. Jon Kyl, of Arizona, on Wednesday asked Department of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen and other officials to investigate ways of dealing with a wave of immigrants he said was overwhelming Yuma and other parts of south-

ern Arizona. He said at a Senate hearing that he worried about people being threatened "by an enormous number of illegal entrants ... some of whom may not be making asylum claims."

Nielsen said she didn't know how many of the immigrants in southern Arizona had made asylum claims, but would look into it.

Under federal law and international treaties, people can obtain asylum in the U.S. if they have a well-grounded fear of persecution in their countries, but Trump administration officials charge that the system is rife with fraud and groundless claims and have called for stricter standards.

About eight of every 10 asylum-seekers pass an initial screening and are then either held in an immigration detention center or released on bond into the U.S. while their cases wind through immigration courts. Many claims are ultimately denied.

FBI says man planned to bomb National Mall on Election Day

BY JIM MUSTIAN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Federal authorities have charged a New York man with building a 200-pound bomb they say he planned to detonate on Election Day on the National Mall in Washington.

Paul Rosenfeld, 56, of Tappan, was charged Wednesday with unlawfully manufacturing a destructive device and interstate transportation and receipt of an explosive. Prosecutors said he planned to use the

bomb to kill himself and draw attention to a political system called sortition, in which political officials are chosen randomly rather than elected.

It was not immediately clear whether Rosenfeld had an attorney.

The FBI raided Rosenfeld's home Tuesday and found a functional bomb in his basement that consisted of black powder inside a plywood box, according to a criminal complaint.

Agents also found empty canisters of black powder often used in firearms and

artillery, the complaint said.

The FBI said in court filings that Rosenfeld, after being pulled over on Tuesday, confessed to ordering large quantities of black powder over the internet and having the substance delivered to "a location in New Jersey."

Rosenfeld took the black powder to New York, constructed smaller explosive devices and conducted test detonations, according to the criminal complaint.

William Sweeney Jr., the assistant director of the FBI's New York field office, said

in a statement that Rosenfeld intended to "detonate a large explosive to kill himself and draw attention to his radical beliefs."

"Had he been successful, Rosenfeld's alleged plot could have claimed the lives of innocent bystanders and caused untold destruction," Sweeney said in the statement.

"Fortunately, his plans were thwarted by the quick action of a concerned citizen and the diligent work of a host of our law enforcement partners and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force."

NATION

NYC prosecutor drops part of Weinstein case

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Manhattan's district attorney dropped part of the criminal sexual assault case against Harvey Weinstein on Thursday after evidence emerged that a police detective had coached a witness to stay silent about evidence that cast doubt on the account of one of his three accusers.

The development was announced in court with Weinstein looking on. The 66-year-old former movie mogul, who has denied all allegations of nonconsensual sex, still faces charges over allegations that he raped an unidentified woman in his hotel room in 2013 and performed a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

The tossed charge involves allegations made by Lucia Evans, who was among the first women to publicly accuse Weinstein of sexual assault.

In an exposé published in *The New Yorker* one year ago Wednesday, Evans accused Weinstein of forcing her to perform oral sex when they met alone in his office in 2004 to discuss her fledgling acting career. At the time, Evans was a 21-year-old college student. She said she had initially met Weinstein at a restaurant in Manhattan earlier that summer.

Prosecutors said in a letter unsealed Thursday that they learned weeks ago that a female friend who was with Evans the night she met Weinstein had given a police detective a contradictory account of what happened.

The woman, prosecutors said, told the detective in February that Weinstein had offered them money to flash their breasts during the restaurant encounter. They initially declined but Evans later told her she had gone ahead and exposed herself to the film producer in a hallway.

The woman also told the detective that sometime after Evans' office meeting with Weinstein, she had suggested what happened was consensual. Weinstein had promised to get her an acting job if she agreed to perform oral sex and she agreed.

According to the witness, who was not named in the court filing, Evans had been drinking and "appeared to be upset, embarrassed and shaking" when she told the story.

Prosecutors said the police detective didn't share any of that information with prosecutors and urged the woman not to reveal details, saying "less is more," and that she had no obligation to cooperate

with investigators.

Prosecutors also disclosed that they had discovered a draft email that Evans had written three years ago to a man who is now her husband that "describes details of the sexual assault that differ from the account" she provided to investigators.

Assistant District Attorney Joan Il-luzzi-Orbon told the judge that prosecutors wouldn't oppose dismissal of the count in the case involving Evans. She insisted the rest of the case, involving two other accusers, was strong.

"In short, your honor, we are moving full steam ahead," she said.

Evans' lawyer, Carrie Goldberg, furiously said outside court that her client had been abandoned by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. for no reason.

"Let me be clear: The decision to throw away my client's sexual assault charges says nothing about Weinstein's guilt or innocence. It only does it reflect on Lucia's consistent allegation that she was sexually assaulted with force by Harvey Weinstein," she said in a written statement. "It only speaks volumes about the Manhattan DA's office and its mishandling of my client's case."

She insisted Evans has told the truth and disputed that she either showed Weinstein her breasts or misled investigators.

Weinstein's lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, told the judge he believed Evans had lied both to the grand jury and to *The New Yorker* about her encounter with Weinstein.

"The integrity of these proceedings has been compromised," he said. Outside court, he suggested that Evans should be prosecuted criminally for perjury.

"This is an attack on the fundamental integrity of the grand jury process. If you have a person willing to commit perjury in the grand jury, that is as serious as the crime of sexual assault because it undermines the fairness of the process for all of us."

Brafman identified the detective in the case as Nicholas DiGaudio. A message left on a phone used by the detective in the past wasn't immediately returned. The union that represents New York City police detectives also didn't immediately return a message.

Weinstein has pleaded not guilty to all charges and is free on \$1 million bail.

The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sexual assaults unless they come forward publicly, as Evans has done.



AMANDA LEE MYERS/AP

Former President Ronald Reagan, who died in 2004, appears on a railcar platform making a speech during a whistle stop on the campaign trail in a hologram on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., on Wednesday.

Reagan holograms debut at his presidential library

By AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — A characteristic twinkle in his eye, Ronald Reagan waves to a crowd from aboard a rail car in a hologram revealed Wednesday at the late president's namesake library in Southern California.

"We think we made a good beginning, but you ain't seen nothin' yet!" the digital resurrection of the nation's 40th president says in his steady voice as a flurry of balloons falls in front of him.

Reagan, who died in 2004 at age 93, was speaking about the nation's future during a 1984 campaign stop but easily could have been referencing the technology that brought him back to life in 2018. The audio used is edited from his real remarks.

"We wanted to make President Reagan as lifelike as possible," said John Heubusch, executive director of the Reagan Foundation. "It's a stunning experience."

In two other holograms, Reagan appears in a suit and tie inside the Oval Office and in horseback riding pants, carrying a lasso alongside his dog, Victory, at his beloved ranch. All three holograms will be on display to visitors of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library starting Thursday.

They will be shown in a specially designed room that will be the first stop for guests. Seats are set up in front of a stage, and a curtain opens up to thunderous applause at Reagan's campaign stop more than three decades ago.

The computer-generated imagery for the holograms was created starting with a silicone cast of Reagan's head that was

photographed from various angles with 300 cameras. His head was then digitally "placed" on the body of an actor portraying the president with full costumes and backdrops for the three scenarios.

Reagan's face comes to life via specific movements of the mouth, nose, eyes, cheeks and hairline, all manipulated by computers. The library worked with the special-effects technicians who helped bring singers Michael Jackson, Billie Holiday and Roy Orbison back to life on stage.

The Hollywood firm Hologram USA helped create the holograms and the stage on which they're projected. As a radio host, television star and movie actor, Reagan understood and appreciated new technologies, company senior vice president David Nussbaum said.

"He always thought many steps ahead," he said. "If he was looking down right now on this project, I think he would give us his seal of approval. I think he would totally get this and support it."

Seeing her former boss "almost in the flesh" was "a little eerie, but at the same time, very comforting," said Joanne Drake, who served as Reagan's chief of staff after the Republican left office following his two terms from 1981 to 1989.

"It's fun to think that he's standing in front of us," said Drake, who's now chief administration officer for the foundation. "Intellectually, you know it's not him standing there, but you see his facial movements and his arm movements and his body and that twinkle in his eye and that little grin that he always got, and it makes you remember really what he brought to the office."

Google's Waze expands carpooling service throughout US

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Google will begin offering its pay-to-carpool service throughout the U.S., an effort to reduce the commuter-time congestion that its popular Waze navigation app is designed to avoid.

The expansion announced Wednesday builds upon a carpooling system that Waze began testing two years ago in northern California and Israel before extending it into Brazil and parts of 12 other states. Now it will be

available to anyone in the U.S.

Drivers willing to give someone a ride need only Waze's app on their phone. Anyone wanting a ride will need to install a different Waze app focused on carpooling.

Riders pay a small fee to chip in for gas and other expenses. It's supposed to be similar to what it would cost to take public transportation to work, according to the company.

About 13.1 million drivers and passengers have signed up for Waze's carpooling service, the company says. About 30 million

people in the U.S. currently rely on the Waze app for directions; it has 110 million users worldwide.

Waze's carpooling effort has been viewed as a potential first step for Google to mount a challenge to the two top ride-hailing services, Uber and Lyft.

But Waze founder and CEO Noam Bardin rejected that notion in an interview with *The Associated Press*, insisting that the carpooling service is purely an attempt to ease traffic congestion.

"We don't want to be a professional driving network," Bardin

said. "We see ride sharing as something that needs to become part of the daily commute. If we can't get people out of their cars, it won't be solving anything."

Gartner analyst Mike Ramsey also sees Waze's service as a bigger threat to other carpooling apps such as Scoop and Carpool Buddy than to Uber and Lyft. "Carpooling is a much different animal," he said.

It's a form of transportation that Bardin said Waze had difficulty figuring out. Early on, Waze tried to get more drivers to sign

up by emphasizing the economic benefits of having someone help cover gas costs for a trip that they were going to make anyway.

But earlier this year, Waze realized it needed a better formula for connecting strangers willing to ride together in a car. Many women, for instance, only want to ride with other women, Bardin said, while other people enjoy commuting with others who work for the same employer or live in the same neighborhood.

"Carpooling is a more social experience," Bardin said.

NATION

Trade war has Wis. manufacturers on edge

BY IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

MEQUON, Wis. — The trade war between the United States and China has made for a nerve-wracking summer of uncertainty in Wisconsin, where manufacturing has long been in decline yet remains a vital part of the state's economy.

At Johnson Level and Tool in suburban Milwaukee, the Trump administration's thrust-and-parry trade moves with China and other countries have left the company bracing for up to \$3.7 million in extra costs annually because of higher tariffs on imports, including some of its levels that are made in China.

The company has a range of options to try to blunt its higher costs — from raising prices on the levels it sells to big box stores to potentially moving some of its manufacturing now done in China to another country to avoid tariffs.

But as companies across America struggle to adapt to the higher prices from import taxes, the options that officials at Johnson Level and Tool face underscore there are no easy answers — and no surefire way to avoid paying more for indispensable imports. As President Donald Trump's tariffs on countless U.S. imports take root, some of the largest U.S. corporations have warned that higher prices are coming.

For many such companies, a key internal question is whether to absorb the higher costs themselves, at least temporarily, to keep customers — or raise prices immediately. Johnson Level has chosen to raise its prices for the stores that buy its products by 8 to 10 percent to match its higher costs imposed by the tariffs.

Levels are a basic tool essential for things like getting doorways square and hanging pictures straight. Though Johnson manufactures some of its levels in Mequon, it imports others that are cheaper to make in China because their tooling machines cost just one-tenth what they do in the U.S., said Paul Buzzell, the company's chief financial officer. About half of the levels the company sells are imported from China.

The uncertainty over how long the tariffs will remain in place has made it harder to find a so-



IVAN MORENO/AP

Paul Buzzell points last month to a machine used to make the levels that Johnson Level and Tool manufactures in Mequon, Wis. The company is facing extra costs as a result of tariff increases.

lution, Buzzell said. He said he always assumed that if the U.S. increased tariffs, it would give businesses a year or two to prepare by making adjustments with their suppliers.

That was the assumption, he said, when the company "started investing in our suppliers and relationships in China."

"We have this uncertainty, and almost overnight our business really has changed and so the competitive landscape is different," Buzzell said.

The first tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminum in June didn't affect Johnson Level; the company doesn't import those raw materials. But in July, a second round of tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports covering hundreds of items, including all the levels and laser levels the company imports, meaning they were now paying 25 percent more for those.

Despite its decline over the years, manufacturing still plays a central role in Wisconsin's economy, making the survival of

companies like Johnson Level essential to the state.

About 16 percent of Wisconsin's workforce is in manufacturing — second only to Indiana, according to the National Association of Manufacturers. Global trade — whether involving manufacturing, farming or other industries — supports about 800,000 jobs in the state, according to the advocacy group the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. That's roughly a quarter of the state's total workforce.

In business since 1947, Johnson Level and Tool sells levels and measuring tools to stores nationwide, including Home Depot, Menards, Lowe's and Ace Hardware.

Buzzell said some of his customers, whom he declined to name, have already balked at suggested price increases. One business customer that he said accounted for about \$2 million in Johnson's annual sales found another supplier shortly after Johnson raised its prices, Buzzell said.

Margaret Smith, a spokeswoman for Home Depot, said the company works "with suppliers

to mitigate impact on customers." She said she couldn't elaborate.

Buzzell said the company, which employs about 100 people, has no plans to reduce staff. He wouldn't disclose Johnson Level's annual revenue, saying only that it's under \$50 million.

Buzzell said one option likeliest to succeed — but also the costliest — would be for the company to find another country not subject to tariffs that can manufacture what it needs. Johnson Level has discussed that possibility, including making in the U.S. what it now imports from China, but it would entail a complex and time-consuming process.

"This is a classic example of uncertainty," Buzzell said. "We're questioning should we treat these tariffs as a long-term thing that's never going away."

On the other hand, he said, the company must make pivotal decisions even knowing that the Trump administration could rescind its tariff increases at any time.

"You don't really know what to

do," Buzzell said.

The uncertainty over how long the tariffs will stay is making decisions difficult for other companies that import products from China as well.

"The big question is, nobody knows how long they'll be in place, so it's hard making changes," Austin Ramirez, the CEO of Husco International, said in an interview.

The Wisconsin-based Husco makes hydraulic and electro-mechanical components for cars and uses machines and metal from China.

"This is costing us a fortune," Ramirez told U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson at a meeting with business leaders in July. Ramirez said the company was incurring about \$1 million a month more in expenses because of the Trump tariffs. Husco International makes roughly a half-billion dollars in total revenue, Ramirez said.

Husco International does about half its business overseas, with plants in Asia and Europe. The company also has about 100 manufacturing jobs in the U.S. for exports to other countries, but retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports means those jobs could move elsewhere, Ramirez said.

"Those jobs are at risk because I can move them to overseas plants that aren't subject to these tariffs," Ramirez told Johnson.

At Regal Ware, a company that makes pots, frying pans and cast aluminum cookware, \$2 million in profits could vanish if tariffs remain in place this year, said Doug Reigl, a vice president at the Wisconsin-based company.

Reigl said the company will consider moving production overseas "or look for ways to take costs out of operations here in the U.S. if the tariffs stay."

While layoffs may not be imminent at manufacturing companies, hiring could face a slowdown, said Joseph Daniels, chairman of the economics department at Marquette University.

"I would say what's at risk is actually job creation," Daniels said.

That's a concern Buzzell shares.

"It's not going to shut us down," he said of the tariffs. "But what it does, it theoretically takes away money to invest in long-term projects."

Social Security benefits increasing in 2019 as inflation rises

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tens of millions of Social Security recipients and other retirees will get a 2.8 percent increase in benefits next year as inflation edges higher. For the average retired worker, it amounts to \$39 a month.

After a period of low inflation, the increase for 2019 is the highest in seven years.

The cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, affects households with budgets for about 1 in 5 Americans, including Social Security beneficiaries, disabled veterans and federal retirees.

That's about 70 million people, enough to send ripples through the economy.

Automatic inflation protection has been a standard feature of Social Security since 1975. Social Security recipients also gain from compounding because the COLA becomes part of their underlying benefit, the base for future COLA increases.

Nonetheless, many retirees and their advocates say the Social Security COLA is too meager and doesn't reflect higher health care costs for older people. Federal budget hawks take the opposite view, arguing that annual increases should be smaller to reflect consumers' penny-pinching responses when costs go up.

With the COLA, the estimated average monthly Social Security payment for a retired worker will be \$1,461 a month next year.

Other Social Security beneficiaries include disabled workers and surviving spouses and children. Low-income disabled and elderly people receiving Supplemental Security Income also get a COLA.

Retiree Danette Deakin, of Bolivar, Mo., says she feels as though her cost-of-living adjustment is already earmarked for rising expenses. Her Medigap insurance for costs not covered by Medicare is going up, and so is her prescription drug plan. She expects her Medicare Part B premium for

outpatient care will also increase, although the government hasn't released that yet.

"It isn't enough of an increase that it takes care of all of the increases from health care, plus rent — our rent gets increased every year," said Deakin, 70, who worked in the finance department at a boat dealership.

Health care costs eat up about one-third of her income, she estimated.

"I appreciate the COLA adjustment, and in no way am I complaining," Deakin added. "It's just that every single thing you can talk about goes up. It doesn't go down."

NATION

Poli: Teens resilient to trolling

By MATT O'BRIEN
AND BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

WETHERSFIELD, Conn. — Teens and young adults say cyberbullying is a serious problem for people their age, but most don't think they'll be the ones targeted for digital abuse.

That's according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV, which also finds that about half of both young people and their parents view social media as having a mostly negative effect on the younger generation.

Matty New Luby, 15, said she's learned to navigate Instagram and other social media apps by brushing aside the anonymous bullies.

"When I see a really mean comment about my appearance or something I did, if someone said that to me online, it means nothing to me, but if I pictured someone I know saying that, I would be really upset," Matty said. Roughly three-quarters of 15- to 26-year-olds say that online bullying and abuse is a serious problem for their peers. Seven percent of young people say they have already been a victim of cyberbullying, with young women (11 percent) more likely to say they were bullied than young men (3 percent).

"People will mix up of their outfits or weight, their choices," said Matty, who lives in a suburb of Hartford, Conn., and has been dabbling in social media since age 12.

Her popularity on the lip-syncing app Musical.ly, which merged this summer into the Chinese video-sharing app TikTok, helped win her some modeling contracts. Now she's mostly focused on Instagram, where she follows makeup artists and fashion trends.

'I'm thankful she's aware that this is not real. It's our jobs as parents to reel them back in.'

Kerrylynn Mahoney
mother of a teenager

Her mother, Kerrylynn Mahoney, said she's impressed by her daughter's ability to keep bullies at bay.

"Her responses blow my mind," Mahoney said. "I'd be fists up at her age. She's like, 'I'm sorry you feel that way. You should probably think in a more positive way and then we'd have more peace on Earth.'"

But she's also vigilant about monitoring her daughter's accounts, blocking any followers who seem creepy or fake and trying to steer her away from fixating on pages that degrade women.

"I have to constantly keep her grounded," Mahoney said. "I'm thankful she's aware that this is not real. It's our jobs as parents to reel them back in."

The poll shows majorities of both young people and their parents think parents have a responsibility to help prevent online harassment.

The long-documented problem with online bullying is that it is relentless. It doesn't let up when kids get home from school, safely in their homes, or even when they move away from their tormentors. Still, like Matty, many young people tend to be more resilient to trolling from strangers online.

"If they don't know who it is, it doesn't seem to bother them as much," said Justin Patchin, a criminal justice professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and co-

director of the Cyberbullying Research Center. "What concerns them is when it's some kid at school."

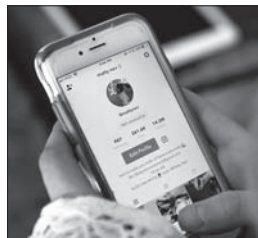
Patchin said that among adults, the people perpetuating harassment tend to be strangers, not people they know.

Leslie Hernandez, 39, said she thinks the impact of social media on people her age has been mostly positive.

"Adults tend to stay away from the drama that is part of adolescence," said Hernandez, who lives in Tucson, Ariz. "It allows you to connect with people from your past."

According to the poll, she is in the minority. Among parents of 15- to 26-year-olds, 23 percent say social media has had a mostly positive effect on people their age, while 31 percent say it's been negative; 45 percent say it's neither positive nor negative. Among people aged 15 to 26, 47 percent say it's had a negative effect on their generation, and 26 percent say it's been a good thing, while another 26 percent think it's neither. Among parents, 53 percent, agree social media has had a mostly negative effect on their child's generation.

No matter their age, the overwhelming majority say they see people using discriminatory language or posting such images. Seventy-eight percent of people aged 15 to 26 say they see such posts either sometimes or often, compared with 65 percent of their



JESSICA HILL/AP

Matty Nev Luby logs into the lip-sync smartphone app Musical.ly. Her mother said she's impressed by Matty's responses to cyberbullies.

parents. Only 4 percent of young people and 10 percent of their parents say they never see discriminatory language or images.

Currently, young internet users report using YouTube (48 percent), Facebook (47 percent), Instagram (40 percent) and Snapchat (39 percent) several times a day or more. Fewer use Twitter, Reddit, WhatsApp, Tumblr or LinkedIn as regularly. Parents who use the internet are most likely to report using Facebook (53 percent) several times a day or more, with few being heavy users of other social media sites.

The Youth Political Pulse poll was conducted Aug. 23 to Sept. 10 by the AP-NORC Center and MTV. The poll was conducted using NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It includes 580 young people ages 15-26 and 591 parents in the same age group. The margin of sampling error for all young people is plus or minus 6.6 percentage points and for parents is plus or minus 7.5 percentage points.

Network of scientists works to diagnose the rarest diseases

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The youngster's mysterious symptoms stumped every expert his parents consulted. No diagnosis explained why he couldn't sit up on his own, or why he'd frequently choke, or his neurologic and intestinal abnormalities.

Then they turned to a new national network that aims to diagnose the rarest of rare diseases — and learned Will Kilquist is the only person known in the world, so far, to harbor one particular genetic mutation that triggered all of those health problems.

"It kind of put me at peace with myself, knowing there is absolutely nothing I could have done to prevent this," said Kari Kilquist, of Murphysboro, Ill., Will's mother.

The Undiagnosed Diseases Network, set up by the National Institutes of Health, turns scientists into detectives to work on medical cases — the patients left in diagnostic limbo because their symptoms didn't match any known diseases. The idea is to offer them access to cutting-edge research, at no cost, in hopes that uncovering what's gone wrong will improve overall medical knowledge.

Wednesday, the network published a snapshot of its early findings that highlight the desperate demand for help.

More than 1,500 people applied for an evaluation between 2015 and 2017 at the network's initial seven patient sites. Just 601 in that first group were accepted, those deemed most likely to benefit, researchers reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Scientists came up with a diagnosis for about a third, 132 of the first 382 patients to complete their evaluations. And 31 of those diagnoses were never-before-known syndromes, according to the report.

Scientists hope to improve that diagnosis rate as more patients enter the program. Already, the application number has nearly doubled and more mysteries have been solved. Last month, the NIH added five more hospitals to the network.

Even those who didn't get a diagnosis at first "say we have hope just knowing there are people looking at our case still and we're not forgotten," said Dr. Euan Ashley, of Stanford University, one of the network sites.

Diagnosis doesn't mean doctors



COURTESY OF THE KILQUIST FAMILY/AP

Jon and Kari Kilquist sit with their children — from left, Will, Emmy and Owen — in Murphysboro, Ill. Will was born with a long list of mysterious symptoms but his doctors were stumped about the cause. A new national network that tackles rare diseases finally gave his family a diagnosis.

automatically know how to help. One in 5 had a specific therapy recommended. Ashley said other families were able to cancel expensive follow-up testing; he calculated the network approach could cut tens of thousands of dollars from the typical patient's diagnostic odyssey.

In Illinois, Kari Kilquist didn't expect Will's treatment to change. He needs a wheelchair and feed-

ing tube. He's a happy child, about to turn 7, who spends his days in therapy and watching "Sesame Street." Still, his mother jumped at one last chance for diagnosis, and perhaps a way to learn what to expect as Will grows.

Will was examined at the NIH Clinical Center — the Bethesda, Md., hospital that first tackled undiagnosed diseases and expanded the research into a network. Doc-

tors found problems others had missed. Will produces no saliva, the reason his airways frequently clog, and doesn't sweat. The clues pointed to a gene defect that affects how the body transports crucial nutrients across cells, explaining Will's developmental problems.

Now Kilquist wonders if, "Maybe Will could someday help another family learn more about their child."

NATION



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

A macaroni penguin inspects a fish-themed pumpkin Wednesday at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, Mich. Each year in October as Halloween approaches, some of the animals receive pumpkins filled with treats during the zoo's annual Smashing Pumpkins event.

Halloween arrives early for inhabitants of Detroit Zoo

Associated Press

ROYAL OAK, Mich. — Halloween has arrived ahead of schedule at the Detroit Zoo, where inhabitants are enjoying some frightfully good fare.

Animal care staff at the zoo in suburban Royal Oak on Wednesday provided special seasonal munchies to anteaters, great apes, grizzly bears, penguins and vultures, among others.

On the menu: pumpkins, cornstalks and other fall harvest goodies, which are filled

with treats that some of the animals get to smash open.

It was all part of the Detroit Zoo's annual Smashing Pumpkins event.

As always, the highlight for many zoo visitors was the distribution of pumpkins to the polar bears, who toiled both above and below the water to acquire their orange surprises.

Curator of mammals Elizabeth Arbaugh said it's the zoo staff's mission to make sure animals' habitats are enriched, and this is a solid — and fun — way to do that.

Retired Army officer killed by own lance

By DANA HEDGPETH

The Washington Post

A Virginia man who was playing a Medieval knight impaled and killed himself with his 7-foot-long lance during a reenactment performance.

Peter Barclay, of Woodbridge, Va., who was a retired Army lieutenant colonel, died after he was impaled with his lance in a timed competition Saturday in Williamstown, Ky. Barclay was a longtime and active member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, according to the group's president, John Fulton.

Fulton said Barclay was competing in an equestrian game at the Kentucky event inside a large pavilion while spectators watched. In the game, riders had to pick up their lances from hay bales and then ride, using them to pick up paper plates.

Barclay, who performs under the name "Master Terafan Greydragon," had the lance in hand and picked up a paper plate off the ground and was finishing the course when the incident happened.

"Something happened with that spear and he lost control of it or it turned, hit the ground, and as his horse was moving, the tip of it went into him," Fulton said Wednesday.

Each lance weighs roughly 2 to 3 pounds and has a metal tip on the end.

Fulton said the lance's tip went into Barclay's abdomen.

"He got off the horse, took some steps, and people noticed he was bleeding," Fulton said. Barclay then collapsed and was airlifted from the event to a hospital but

died en route, according to Fulton.

Fulton said his group is cooperating with investigators as they look into what went wrong. He said his group follows a "very strict set of rules" and safety measures for its "combat-related activities."

Fulton said Barclay was wearing a doublet, which is a short, tight-fitting jacket. He said he was not wearing full body armor, which is not necessary for the activity he was doing, given that it was just a timed event with no other riders directly in the ring at the time.

Barclay had been involved in Medieval events and re-enactments for more than 30 years and taught others how to ride horses and to do the activities, Fulton said. The group has more than 30,000 members, including groups in the U.K., Austria, Australia and Denmark.

Barclay was known for doing the event he participated in two or three times per month and was considered a leader in the group as its deputy for equestrian activities. Fulton said Barclay had retired recently, having served the past four years at the Pentagon.

"He was the consummate expert," Fulton said. "He knew how to do it and how to do it safely. It was just something that happened, and we still don't have a grasp of it."

While there has been injuries before, Fulton said it is the first time the group has had anyone die. He said it was "shocking to have this happen to one of the best people in our organization."

"It is a horrible set of circumstances that caused this."

Toxic metal cadmium found in jewelry at US retail stores

By ARIEL TU

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jewelry with the toxic metal cadmium is showing up on the shelves of national retailers including Ross, Nordstrom Rack and Papaya, according to newly released test results.

Analysis done for the nonprofit Center for Environmental Health revealed some jewelry sold with women's dresses and shirts was nearly pure cadmium, which can cause cancer and reproductive harm after prolonged exposure.

Consumer advocates were hopeful cadmium had disappeared from the U.S. jewelry market following changes prompted by a 2010 Associated Press investigation that found Chinese manufacturers were using the metal to make kids' jewelry.

States including California outlawed cadmium in children's jewelry, and testing by the center found the chemical virtually had disappeared from jewelry by 2012.

No laws address cadmium in adult jewelry, however, and last year, the center decided to check those products. Lab testing found 31 adult jewelry items purchased from retail stores were at least 40

percent cadmium, and most were more than 90 percent, according to results shared exclusively with the AP.

California's law allows no more than 0.03 percent cadmium in children's jewelry. The precise health risk from the tested jewelry is unclear because researchers did not assess whether small amounts shed when the jewelry is handled and worn.

Over time, cadmium accumulates in the body and can damage the kidneys and the bones. Most exposure happens by ingesting small amounts or by breathing it, most commonly through tobacco, which can contain cadmium. Researchers also have documented some absorption through skin contact, though the phenomenon is not well-studied.

Michael Harbut, a practicing doctor who as a university professor has researched cadmium's cancer-causing properties, noted that contact can trigger skin rashes including psoriasis.

"Cadmium is bad," said Harbut, who teaches at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine. "Given a choice between wearing something with cadmium in it or wearing something without cadmium in it, I would take the product without



PROVIDED BY THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/AP

Jewelry items loaded with the toxic metal cadmium that were bought from the shelves of national retailers are displayed Sept. 20 at the Center for Environmental Health in Oakland, Calif.

cadmium."

The Oakland-based nonprofit bought all the test samples in the San Francisco Bay Area this year or last. The extent to which contaminated jewelry is in stores elsewhere isn't clear, though a national retailer would not typically limit a product to just one region.

The center said the problem should not be underestimated because of the limited market sampling.

"If you're the person that buys and is wearing that jewelry, you don't really care whether it's a common problem or a rare problem," said Caroline Cox, senior scientist at the center. "You have a problem."

Brent Cleveland, executive director of the Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association, said he does not believe the test results suggest a larger problem. Most major retailers have a stringent

system for testing and analyzing what they sell, he said.

Most of the tainted items were sold at Ross, which operates more than 1,400 stores in 38 states. One pendant from a necklace chain was 100 percent cadmium, according to the testing.

In a written statement, Ross said it is committed to protecting its customers and has "addressed this issue with our supplier." The retailer would not say whether it pulled suspect jewelry from stores.

The brands found with high cadmium levels at Ross stores include Tacera and Vibe Sportswear.

Xinwei Xie, chief executive officer at Trend Textile Inc., which owns Tacera, declined to comment when reached by phone. The Skate Group Inc., which owns Vibe Sportswear, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Papaya said it considers cadmium in its products a serious problem. It operates more than 100 retail locations nationwide.

Steven Kim, an attorney representing Papaya, said the company has recalled the products where contamination was found and stopped buying from the manufacturer in China.

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WORLD

Soldiers, guards among Saudi team after writer

By AYSE WIETING,
SUZAN FRASER
AND JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Saudi royal guards, intelligence officers, soldiers and an autopsy expert were part of a 15-member team from the kingdom that targeted missing writer Jamal Khashoggi, Turkish media said Thursday. The Washington Post contributor vanished last week while visiting the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

The reported details, coupled with more direct comments from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, appear aimed at gradually pressuring Saudi Arabia to reveal what happened to Khashoggi while balancing Ankara's need to maintain the kingdom's investments in the kingdom and relations on other issues.

Turkish officials say they fear Saudi Arabia killed and dismembered Khashoggi, without offering evidence explaining why they believe that. Khashoggi contributed columns to the Post, including some critical of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Saudi Arabia, before going silent in recent days, called the allegation it abducted or harmed Khashoggi "baseless." However,

it has offered no evidence to support its claim the writer simply walked out of its consulate and vanished despite his fiancée waiting outside for him.

Information continues to trickle out through Turkish media about the 15-man Saudi team previously described as an "assassination squad." Those leaks, largely matching across Turkey's state-run media and private Erdogan-linked outlets, likely come from the country's security services as another means to pressure the kingdom over Khashoggi's Oct. 2 disappearance.

The first plane of nine Saudis arrived from Riyadh about 3:30 p.m. that day, and included an individual described as a forensics official, according to the Sabah newspaper. One Turkish official, speaking on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press to discuss an ongoing police investigation, previously described that official as an "autopsy expert."

The other six flew in on commercial flights, according to a list obtained by Sabah, which also published their names and faces. Local media described the Saudis as being military and intelligence officers, as well as several "royal guards."

About the time Khashoggi en-

tered the consulate, a second private plane from Riyadh took off for Istanbul. About two hours after he entered the consulate, video released by state media in Turkey shows several vehicles with diplomatic license plates leaving the consulate and driving some 1.2 miles away to the consul's residence.

The Hurriyet newspaper and other media alleged that the consulate's 28 local staff were given the day off because a "diplomats' meeting" would be held there. The reports did not cite a source and there was no official confirmation.

By 7 p.m., six of the Saudis left by the newly arrived private plane, flying to Cairo and remaining overnight until heading back to Riyadh, according to

Sabah and other media reports. By 11 p.m., another seven left by the other private plane, heading to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, similarly remaining there overnight and then flying on to Riyadh the next day, according to reports. Two others flew out commercially, Sabah said.

While the reports provide nothing definitive, they darken the picture surrounding Khashoggi's disappearance.

Erdogan was quoted by Turkish media on Thursday as telling journalists flying with him back home from a visit to Hungary that "we cannot remain silent to such an incident."

"How is it possible for a consulate, an embassy not to have security camera systems? Is it possible for the Saudi Arabian consulate

where the incident occurred not to have camera systems?" Erdogan asked. "If a bird flew, if a mosquito appeared, these systems would catch them and (I believe) they (the Saudis) would have the most advanced of systems."

Khashoggi had gone to the consulate Tuesday last week to get paperwork he needed for his upcoming marriage. His Turkish fiancée waited outside.

The Post reported Wednesday evening that U.S. intelligence intercepts outlined a Saudi plan to detain Khashoggi. The Post, citing anonymous U.S. officials familiar with the intelligence, said Prince Mohammed ordered an operation to lure Khashoggi from his home in Virginia, where he lived most recently, to Saudi Arabia and then to detain him.

Trump raises economic concerns over halting sales of arms to Saudis

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says the U.S. is looking into the fate of a Saudi writer missing and feared murdered but expressed reservations over calls to withhold further U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia, warning that such a move "would be hurting us."

Decades of close U.S.-Saudi relations, which have only intensified under Trump, appeared in jeopardy by the suggestion of a carefully plotted murder of a government critic, Jamal Khashoggi, 59, who disappeared a week ago after entering a Saudi consulate in Turkey. The wealthy former government insider had been living in the U.S. in self-imposed exile.

In an interview Wednesday with "Fox News (at) Night," Trump said he wanted to find out what happened to Khashoggi but appeared reluctant to consider blocking arms sales, citing economic reasons.

"I think that would be hurting us," Trump said. "We have jobs, we have a lot of things happening in this country. We have a country that's doing probably better economically than it's ever done before."

He continued, "Part of that is what we're doing with our defense systems and everybody's wanting them. And, frankly, I think that that would be a very, very tough pill to swallow for our country. I mean, you're affecting us and,

you know, they're always quick to jump that way."

On his first international trip as president, Trump visited Saudi Arabia and announced \$110 billion in proposed arms sales. The administration also relies on Saudi support for its Middle East agenda to counter Iranian influence, to fight extremism and to support a hoped-for peace plan between Israel and the Palestinians.

Earlier Wednesday, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has reviewed U.S. intelligence on the case, said it was likely that Khashoggi was killed the day he walked into the consulate. Whatever took place, Corker said, "there was Saudi involvement" and "everything points to them."

More than 20 Republican and Democratic senators instructed Trump to order an investigation into Khashoggi's disappearance under legislation that authorizes imposition of sanctions for perpetrators of extrajudicial killings, torture or other gross human rights violations.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., a long-time critic of the Saudi government, has said he'll try to force a vote in the Senate blocking U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said it would be time for the U.S. to re-think its relationship with Saudi Arabia if it turned out Khashoggi was hured to his death by the Saudis.

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WORLD

Astronauts safe after emergency landing

By DMITRY LOVETSKY
Associated Press

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan — Two astronauts from the U.S. and Russia were safe Thursday after an emergency landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan following the failure of a Russian booster rocket carrying them to the International Space Station.

NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos' Alexei Ovchinnikov lifted off as scheduled at 4:40 a.m. EDT Thursday from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, but their Soyuz booster rocket failed about two minutes after the launch.

The rescue capsule automatically jettisoned from the booster and went into a ballistic descent, landing at a sharper than normal angle and subjecting the crew to heavy gravitational force.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, who watched the launch at Baikonur along with his Russian counterpart, tweeted that Hague and Ovchinnikov are in good condition. He added that a "thorough investigation into the cause of the incident will be conducted."

The capsule landed about 12 miles east of the city of Dzhezkazgan in Kazakhstan. The astronauts were flown by helicopter to Dzhezkazgan and will later be taken

to Baikonur and on to Star City, Russia's space training center outside Moscow.

While the Russian space program has been dogged by a string of launch failures and other incidents in recent years, Thursday's mishap marked the program's first manned launch failure since September 1983, when a Soyuz exploded on the launch pad.

"Thank God, the crew is alive," Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters when it became clear that the crew had landed safely. He added that the president is receiving regular updates about the situation.

It was to be the first space mission for Hague, who joined NASA's astronaut corps in 2013. Ovchinnikov spent six months on the orbiting outpost in 2016.

NASA posted pictures of Hague and Ovchinnikov undergoing a medical check-up at Dzhezkazgan's airport. One of the pictures showed Hague smiling and another had him sitting next to Russia's space agency chief Dmitry Rogozin.

The astronauts were docked at the International Space Station six hours after the launch, but the three-stage Soyuz booster suffered an unspecified failure of its second stage. Search and rescue teams were immediately scrambled to recover the crew, and paratroopers



RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE/AP

A rescue team gathers next to the Soyuz MS-10 space capsule after an emergency landing in a field 280 miles northeast of Baikonur, Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

were dropped from a plane to reach the site and help the rescue effort.

Dzhezkazgan is about 280 miles north-east of Baikonur, and spacecraft returning from the ISS normally land in that region.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov said all manned launches will be suspended pending an investigation into the cause of the failure. He added that Russia will fully share all relevant information with the U.S.

Earlier this week, Bridenstine emphasized that collaboration with Russia's Roscosmos remains important.

Relations between Moscow and Washington have sunk to post-Cold War lows over the crisis in Ukraine, the war in Syria and allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential vote, but they have maintained cooperation in space research.

The Russian Soyuz spacecraft is currently the only vehicle for ferrying crews to the International Space Station following the retirement of the U.S. space shuttle fleet. Russia stands to lose that monopoly in the coming years with the arrival of SpaceX's Dragon v2 and Boeing's Starliner crew capsules.

S. Korea walks back talk of lifting sanctions on North

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea on Thursday walked back a proposal to lift some of its unilateral sanctions against North Korea following U.S. President Donald Trump's blunt retort that Seoul could "do nothing" without Washington's approval.

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had said on Wednesday that Seoul was considering lifting measures applied after a deadly attack in 2010 that killed 46 South Korean sailors. She cited the intent to create more diplomatic momentum for talks over North Korea's nuclear program.

South Korean conservatives reacted with anger, and Kang's ministry downplayed her comments later, saying in a statement that the government has yet to start a "full-fledged" review of sanctions, meaning no decision was imminent.

Unification Minister Cho Myoung-yeon told a parliamentary audit on Thursday there has been no serious consideration given to lifting the sanctions and that doing so would be hard unless North Korea acknowledges responsibility for the 2010 attack. North Korea has fiercely denied it sank the Cheonan warship.

Liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in hopes that progress in nuclear diplomacy will allow him to advance his ambitious plans for engagement with North Korea, including joint eco-

nomics projects and reconnecting inter-Korean roads and railways. These projects have been held back by the sanctions against North Korea.

While arguing that improved inter-Korean relations could possibly facilitate progress in larger nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea, Cho said Seoul isn't ready yet to campaign for reduced pressure against its rival.

"At the current stage, I think it's a little early for us to call for the lifting or easing of the U.N. sanctions," Cho said.

Trump's response when he was asked about Kang's comments implied friction between the allies over the pace of inter-Korean engagement amid concerns in Washington that North Korea is lagging behind in its supposed promise to denuclearize.

"They won't do that without our approval," Trump said of the comments. "They do nothing without our approval."

Trump has encouraged U.S. allies to maintain sanctions on North Korea until it denuclearizes as part of what his administration has termed a campaign of "maximum pressure" against leader Kim Jong Un's government.

Moon has mostly stayed firm on sanctions despite actively engaging with North Korea and floating the possibility of huge investments and joint economic projects in return for the North's relinquishment of its nuclear weapons.

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PACIFIC

Tradition sets tone at Tokyo fish market

By YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO — Tokyo's famous fish market reopened Thursday at a new location but retained its most famous tradition: the tuna auction.

The customary clanging of bells opened the auction for raw and frozen tuna, which crammed the huge warehouse wall-to-wall, at the waterfront Toyosu facility. The rhythmic shouts of the auctioneers and the special hand signals by the bidders that followed were unchanged from Tsukiji, the smaller, more accessible home the market recently left after more than eight decades.

The top bid for tuna, a delicacy much like premium-grade beef in Japan, was 4.28 million yen (\$38,000), not an unusually high price for quality tuna.

The more than 400 kinds of seafood at the market come from all over Japan, as well as from abroad, including octopus, eel, sea urchin and other items special to Japanese cuisine.

The market serves top restaurants and everyday supermarkets alike. The move was delayed

for two years because of worries about contamination, including arsenic, at the Toyosu site. Measures were taken to ensure safety, such as better water pumps and extra concrete sealing.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike attended the opening and expressed hopes for the location's success.

Officials and workers then clapped rhythmically in celebration of Toyosu's opening, the same customary gesture for good luck that had closed Tsukiji on Oct. 6.

Free tours for the public start Saturday, including seeing the auction from a huge glass window. Visitors will not be able to go on the auction floor as they could at Tsukiji. Reporters got a tour of the grounds Thursday.

Like Tsukiji, Toyosu also has a vegetable wholesale area where auctions also take place. In several spots in the same market complex are tiny restaurants, including the ones that used to be at Tsukiji but also new ones.

Still, much of the humbly quaint atmosphere of Tsukiji was gone in the sterile factorylike environment of Toyosu. Whether Toyosu can attract tourist traffic remains to be seen.



Above: Prospective buyers bid on frozen tunas Thursday during the first auction at the newly opened Toyosu Market in Tokyo.
Left: A worker cuts a fresh tuna at a wholesale shop at the market.

PHOTOS BY EUGENE ROSSIGNO/AP

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Truck spills load of salad dressing on road

MA MANSFIELD — A tractor-trailer hauling a cargo of salad dressing spilled all over an interstate road in Massachusetts.

The truck was driving on Interstate 495 in Mansfield on Tuesday morning when it struck the underside of a bridge. The crash spilled the contents of the truck across the road, leaving only one lane open.

The driver of the tractor-trailer was taken to an area hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

Crews cleared the scene and southbound lanes were reopened later the same day.

Python dead after eating poisoned rodent

UT LOGAN — Authorities said a small python that was found in a Logan neighborhood was positively identified by his owners after it was reportedly stolen from their home this past summer.

But the Herald Journal reported that Logan Police Capt. Tyson Budge said the snake suffered convulsions and died several hours after he was picked up.

A necropsy — an autopsy for animals — was performed on the snake and police were informed that the python had ingested a poisoned rodent, causing it to hemorrhage internally.

Combat artist's works displayed at museum

VA NORFOLK — A museum in Virginia is displaying the paintings of an aviation combat artist from World War I.

The Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk said in a statement that it started showing the paintings of Henri Farre in late September. They'll be on display until late January.

The exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

The French artist is said to have been the first to experience war in the air and depict it on canvases.

Counters hold first Squirrel Census at park

NY NEW YORK — It's one of the enduring mysteries of life in New York City. Just how many squirrels live in Central Park?

Counters started roaming the 840-acre park last weekend for its first Squirrel Census.

Organizers of the two-week count told The New York Times they're looking to learn more about squirrel behavior and urban green space.

Jamie Allen led similar censuses of Atlanta's Inman Park in 2012 and 2016. He said the projects are filling a data void on squirrels and exposing patterns in how they live.

The Central Park counters' findings will be made public in the spring.

THE CENSUS

450

The number of drones detected flying illegally near Albuquerque's hot-air balloon festival. Balloon Fiesta hired Phoenix-based Aerial Armor this year to monitor the sky for drones. The Federal Aviation Administration said it's illegal to fly a drone within 4 miles of Fiesta Park. Police and the FBI have not said if any drone pilots have gotten into trouble for flying too close to Fiesta.



MATT ROURKE/AP

Beware of sea monsters

An inflatable sculpture titled "Sea Monsters HERE" extends from a rusting warehouse called Building 611 at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia on Tuesday. The installation was created by U.K.-based artists Filthy Luker and Pedro Estrellas. The installation at the former military base will be on display until Nov. 16.

Blind man safe thanks to sharp-nosed dog

MO HILLSBORO — A missing blind man is safe, thanks to the nose of a 3-year-old black lab mix who sniffed him out.

Ruby was part of a weekend search team looking for the man in Hillsboro, 40 miles southwest of St. Louis. The man, who has epilepsy in addition to blindness, was reported missing Oct. 5.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that on Sunday, it was another bloodhound named Wally who first found one of the man's shoes. With the search area narrowed, Ruby picked up the man's scent and headed to a creek bed, where Ruby's handler, Marla Vollmer, found the man.

Man accused of stealing firetruck arrested

NV RENO — Reno police arrested a man accused of stealing a city firetruck and leading officers on a chase before he was arrested downtown.

Mark Williams, 23, was being held on charges of driving under the influence, disobeying a police officer, reckless driving and grand larceny.

Police allege he stole the fire engine that was sitting unlocked while paramedics were treating a potential stroke victim.

The Reno Gazette Journal reported officers stopped the truck near the Washoe County Courthouse and the chase briefly entered onto U.S. Interstate 80 before a police cruiser rammed the truck and Williams tried to flee on foot.

Students seek history beneath coffee shop

RI NEWPORT — Archaeology students in Newport spent a weekend excavating beneath a local coffee shop to unearth possible artifacts.

Salve Regina University assistant professor Jon Marcoux took students from his introductory course class to Empire Tea & Coffee to dig in the dirt-floor area underneath the coffee shop. The Newport Daily News reported building owner Paul Tobak found

remnants of a former dwelling in the basement area in 2016 — sparking Marcoux's interest in the site.

Marcoux said he plans more excavations this month and that he would like to work with the university's historic preservation department to understand the history of the site.

Man claims false arrest, sues Disney

FL ORLANDO — A New York man who was arrested for getting into an altercation with a Walt Disney World worker just moments before he planned to propose to his fiancée is suing the theme park resort, claiming he never touched the employee.

Marc Rubin filed the lawsuit last month in state court in Orlando alleging false arrest.

The lawsuit said Rubin was scouting out a location in front of Cinderella's Castle in the Magic Kingdom to propose to his future wife three years ago. A Disney employee asked him to move back from the parade route.

The Orlando Sentinel reported that the Disney worker told deputies that Rubin screamed and grabbed her, something he denies.

Lincoln museum head cuts foundation tie

IL SPRINGFIELD — Friction over a stovepipe hat's connection to Abraham Lincoln has prompted the director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to dissolve his \$25,000 consulting contract with the organization's fundraising arm.

Alan Lowe told The Associated Press his "top priority" is as director of the Lincoln museum. He said he is "at odds on some issues" with the Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation so he ended the contract.

Lowe said in a statement he wasn't fully informed about the foundation's secret and inconclusive DNA testing to determine whether a prize stovepipe hat belonged to Lincoln.

From wire reports



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PACIFIC

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Edsel Reed
Edsel Padua
Genesis Reed
Hiroto Yoshimura
Hiroyuki Ishigamori
Isao Takahashi
Issac Norton
Jaden Gummerus
Ja'Quan Lamar Odum
Jasmine Tompkins

Joseph Archangel
Judson Leary
Kambridge White
Katie Devinney
Kazumi Hishikura
Kenisha Husbands
Luqmaan Abdullah
Madsyn Orlovski
Maria Falk
Max Richards
Norikazu Shimoguchi
Roman Paprzycki
Sasha Koefod
Shigeo Takahashi
Shin Honda
Shuhel Tanaka
Sydney Jones
Takeishi Ozawa
Tomoyuki Arai

Toru Himaki
Wilbert Nelson
Yoshihito Morita

Okinawa

Katsura Yagi
Masaki Nakada
Masaya Murayoshi
Shigeru Kanejama
Teru Uechi
Tomoki Tamaki
Yoshihiko Tobaru
Yutaka Sashida
Zenzo Shimabukuro

Korea

Chin Yal Han
Chal Min Kuk
Chang Il Mun

Chu Sik Kim
Chun Ho Cho
Ki Rak Chan
Kyoung Tak Pak
Kyoung Yal Choe
Kyu Sik Kim
Man Chung Yi
Sang Nae Cho
Song Chan Chang
Won Sik U
Yang Chun Choe
Yong Sok Pak

Guam

Joe Guzman
John Wesley

EUROPE

Italy

Alessandro Spegglorin
Claudio Gallo
Francesca Narduzzo
Giovanni Micalizzi

Germany

Allen Chapman
Andrew Sims
Angelo Iannardi
Antonio Sanders
Barre Seguin
Brad Owen
Charles Daminabo
Chas Gomes
Colby Lewis
Dannie Burroughs
Dawnella Anspach
Debra Scavone

Edward Elbrecht
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Robert Poole
Romaine Beckford
Savali Ilisoni
Shandel DeVries
Thaddeus Obasohan

Belgium

Michael Flo

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Rising interest rates weighing on tech stocks

By ALEX VEIGA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Technology and internet stocks have led the way for much of Wall Street's bull market run, propelling the stocks of big names like Apple, Amazon and Google's parent company sharply higher along the way.

Now those high-flying stocks are at the forefront of a wave of selling as investors fret about the possible impact of a recent surge in interest rates.

Those jitters gave the Nasdaq composite index, which has a high concentration of technology companies, its biggest loss in more than two years Wednesday. Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Netflix and Alphabet, Google's parent company, all posted steep declines.

"The sell-off was perhaps a little tale-driven," said Lindsey Bell,

investment strategist at CFRA. "A lot of it may have been investors just kind of taking profits in some of the high-flyers of the year that also have high valuations."

The yield on the 10-year Treasury jumped from 3.05 percent early last week to more than 3.20 percent Wednesday, a seven-year high. Interest rates tend to follow increases in bond yields, eroding profits for companies, which have to pay more interest rate costs to borrow money. They also make bonds more attractive investments relative to stocks.

Technology and internet-based companies are known for their high profit margins, and many have reported explosive growth in recent years, with corresponding gains in their stock prices. That's made them particularly vulnerable to higher interest rates because it makes the stocks' already

high valuations look even more stretched.

Investors have other reasons to worry about the tech sector stocks. Those include the potential impact that the U.S.-China trade dispute could have on big tech companies, which tend to do a lot of business in China.

In addition, the big-name tech stocks have been faring so well so long that investors have been betting on even bigger things to come from the companies. Those wagers might take longer to pay off, or worse, might fizzle completely if a slowing economy or a recession undermines their future growth.

Facebook and Google, for instance, might not be able to entice as many new users to their free digital services, and the advertising that generates most of their revenue might shrivel away.

For Amazon, it might mean consumers curtail their spending on merchandise in its e-commerce site and decide they really don't need an internet-connected speaker like the Echo, after all. And Netflix might have more difficulty attracting subscribers, or even start seeing more cancellations to its online streaming service if households feel squeezed.

There's another cloud hanging over Netflix's stock, too. The company is scheduled to report its third-quarter results Tuesday. After it missed its target for subscriber growth during the spring, investors may be bailing out of its stock for fear the trend continued during the summer months, when it's traditionally more challenging to get people to sign up for a video service because of vacation schedules and good weather outdoors.

The margin of error for those companies is extremely thin because the dramatic run-up in their stocks has driven a key stock benchmark — price-to-earnings ratio — to astronomical levels. Now more so than Netflix, with investors still paying the equivalent of \$149 for every \$1 in earnings, even after its stock has tumbled 13 percent during the past week.

Even with the recent sell-off, Netflix's stock is still worth nearly three times more than it was just three years ago and seven times more than it was five years ago.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 12)	\$1.1867
Dollar buys (Oct. 12)	€0.8427
British pound (Oct. 12)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (Oct. 12)	¥110.80
South Korean won (Oct. 12)	₩1,113.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3220
Canada (Dollar)	1.3029
China (Yuan)	6.8835
Denmark (Krone)	6.4508
Egypt (Pound)	7.9165
Euro	\$1.1566/0.8646
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8367
Hungary (Forint)	280.74
Israel (Shekel)	3.6311
Japan (Yen)	112.50
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3032
Norway (Krone)	8.2101
Philippines (Peso)	54.07
Poland (Zloty)	3.73
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7520
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3787
South Korea (Won)	1,136.20
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9890
Thailand (Baht)	32.72
Turkey (Lira)	5.9688

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

Postal Service proposes 5-cent hike to first-class stamp

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service is seeking to increase the price of its first-class stamp by 5 cents to 55 cents to help stem its mounting red ink.

If approved by regulators, the 10 percent increase to the cost of mailing a 1-ounce letter would be the biggest since 1991. The price of each additional ounce would go down, from 21 cents to 15 cents.

The proposed increase would take effect in January. It comes as President Donald Trump has criticized the Postal Service for "losing a fortune" by not charging higher shipping rates for online retailers such as Amazon.com.

The Postal Service has seen years of financial losses as an unrelenting drop in mail volume and costs of its health care and pension obligations outweighed strong gains in package deliveries.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.192	\$3.552	\$3.793	\$3.674
Change in price	+3.7 cents	+4.0 cents	+3.6 cents	+7.2 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.793	\$3.934	\$4.057
Change in price	--	-6.7 cents	-5.5 cents	+1.2 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.497	\$3.738	\$3.619
Change in price	--	+4.0 cents	+3.6 cents	+7.2 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.736	--
Change in price	--	--	+3.6 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$3.191	\$3.479	\$3.390
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$3.614	\$3.495*
Change in price	--	--	+3.6 cents	7.2 cents
Italy	\$4.202	--	--	\$4.278
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.539	--	\$3.419
Change in price	--	+4.0 cents	--	+7.0 cents
Okhawa	\$2.939	--	--	\$3.419
Change in price	+4.0 cents	--	--	+7.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.969	--	\$3.569	\$3.449
Change in price	+3.0 cents	--	+3.0 cents	+7.0 cents
Guam	\$2.969**	\$3.329	\$3.569	--
Change in price	+4.0 cents	+4.0 cents	+4.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Oct. 13-19

MARKET WATCH

	Oct. 10, 2018
Dow Jones Industrials	-831.83
	25,598.74
Nasdaq composite	-315.97
	7,422.05
Standard & Poor's 500	-94.66
	2,785.68
Russell 2000	-46.46
	1,575.41

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	2.18
3-month bill	0.13
30-year bond	3.40

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

WEEKEND



Eric Church
gets desperate
Music, Page 37

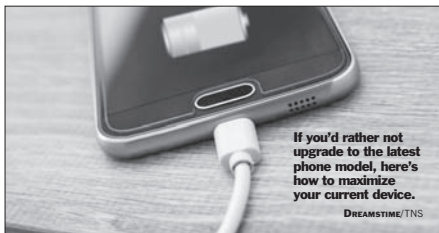
EPIC ADVENTURE

'Assassin's Creed Odyssey' rewards those
with the stamina to explore it completely

Video games, Page 26



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



If you'd rather not upgrade to the latest phone model, here's how to maximize your current device.

DREAMTIME/TNS

Tips to make your phone perform better, last longer

By DEBBIE CARLSON
Chicago Tribune

Dreaming of the new iPhone Apple XS or Samsung Galaxy Note9, but don't want to (or can't afford to) pay \$1,000-plus? While it's easy to get lured into trading up to the latest phone model, there are ways to make your current phone perform better and last longer.

Be gentle with it. Even mid-range phones aren't cheap, so shell out a few extra bucks for the screen protector and protective case to minimize damage.

Battery life: A common error people make when trying to conserve battery power is to forcibly close all their open apps such as going to the App Switcher on an iPhone. Said Jeff Kelley, an iOS developer at Detroit Labs, a mobile app development firm. If you close the app normally, the iOS operating system will maintain the memory of the last usage. Force-quitting makes the app start from scratch and takes longer to load.

"That can have a pretty significant negative effect on your battery life," he said.

Some apps download data when you're not using them. Put them on a data diet by turning off Background App Refresh in the iPhone's General Settings. For Android, go to mobile data usage in General Settings, then click on each app to turn off this feature.

Why try to preserve battery life? "All batteries have a limited amount of charge cycles, so any kind of modern device with a lithium-ion battery is going to have an expected lifetime," Kelley said.

For any phone, limit how much you use fast chargers, too, he said, and don't use them overnight.

Storage: Most people clog up their phones unnecessarily by not using cloud storage, both Kelley and Kent said. By enabling cloud storage you can delete local copies of data (photos, documents, text messages) that hog disk space.

On iPhones, free up space with the Offload Unused Apps function, which deletes little-used app files from your phone, Kelley said. Android users can uninstall apps, but inexpensive Android phones sometimes have unnecessary apps bundled with the operating system that can't be removed, taking up valuable space.

If those tips don't work, it may be worth having a professional look at your phone. Repairing phones can be a cheaper option versus buying new. Common repairs include changing batteries and fixing the charge port, screen or camera, said Shawn Budiac, in-house device repair expert at Batteries Plus Bulbs. Battery replacement on newer iPhones and Samsung Galaxy models is \$70, and fixing the charge port ranges from \$90 to \$110. Screen and camera fixes cost more, but are less than buying the latest phones.

GADGET WATCH

Using wireless mouse as easy as a handshake

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

Injuries such as forearm strain or wrist pressure caused by a mouse are common. The new Logitech MX Vertical wireless mouse is built with an ergonomic design to reduce these injuries.

Logitech claims that their mouse is scientifically tested and ergonomist-approved. The design is a natural handshake position.

The MX Vertical is probably so named because of its 57-degree vertical angle, reducing muscular activity up to 10 percent compared to using an everyday mouse.

When I gave the product a spin, I found the comfort of the MX Vertical like night and day compared to a standard mouse.

If you have never used anything but a standard mouse, the look and feel of an ergonomic mouse might take some getting used to. After an hour or so, trust me, you'll never go back.

The included software is easy to program all the features you expect and need. This includes left and right buttons for clicking and a smooth clicking scroll wheel.

The software lets you customize the buttons and add other features depending on your tasks. Wirelessly, the mouse can be used with the included USB dongle or Bluetooth. Both worked fine for me.

On the bottom is a button to switch the channel, which is great if you use multiple computers. You can even copy and paste between computers.

The left side has a thumb rest, and your other fingers are positioned on the right where each can have easy access to the controls.

How effectively it reduces or eliminates pain and injuries, or just adds comfort, depends on each user.

The internal battery should provide about four months of use, if it runs out in the middle of work, a one-minute charge will get you running for three hours.

With all its features, the MX Vertical has to be near or at the top of the products of its type that I've tried. And that's saying a lot.

Online: Logitech.com; \$99.99

True wireless earbuds aren't as unusual as they were a year ago, but they are still a relatively new concept. The latest to get play time in our ears are the Yevo Air.

Recently I got a few emails from readers, asking for suggestions in the true wireless category with good sound and a reasonable price. I was happy to reply that the Yevo Air is a great choice.

The most important feature, the sound, of-



LOGITECH/TNS

The MX Vertical wireless mouse is designed to reduce repetitive stress injuries.

fered great clarity even at high levels and a nice amount of bass.

Calls, voice assistants and music are easily managed with on-ear controls.

But before even turning them on, I made sure I had the right size of silicon tip attached to the earbuds (three sizes included) to ensure a comfortable and — critically important — secure fit. Each earbud has a 6mm driver, and the Bluetooth 4.2 connection worked perfectly. You'll get about 3.5 hours of battery life, but that can vary depending on the volume.

When a charge of the lithium polymer battery is needed, just place the earbuds in the included pocket-sized storage case, which gives you up to 10.5 hours of extra listening.

The sweat- and splash-resistant earbuds are built with a contemporary look, which only adds to their appeal.

Online: yevoalabs.com; \$129 in choices of black or white



YEVOLABS.COM/TNS

The Yevo Air, above and at left, has great clarity even at high levels and a nice amount of bass.

ON THE COVER: "Assassin's Creed Odyssey" uses the Peloponnesian War as the backdrop for its heroic video gaming.

Ubisoft

ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on iTunes through Oct. 10:

- "Shallow," Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper
- "Always Remember Us This Way," Lady Gaga
- "I'll Never Love Again," Lady Gaga
- "Without Me," Halsey
- "Is This Alright?", Lady Gaga
- "Easidise," benny blanco, Halsey and Khalid
- "Happier," Marshmello & Bastille
- "Maybe It's Time," Bradley Cooper
- "I'll Never Love Again," Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper
- "Natural," Imagine Dragons

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 songs on Spotify through Oct. 9:

- "Taki Taki" (with Selena Gomez, Ozuna & Cardi B), DJ Snake
- "I Love It" (feat. Lil Pump), Kanye West
- "Happier," Marshmello
- "Moné Lisa" (feat. Kendrick Lamar), Lil Wayne
- "Falling Down," Lil Peep
- "Don't Cry" (feat. XXXTENTACION), Lil Wayne
- "Easidise" (with Halsey & Khalid), benny blanco
- "Promises" (with Sam Smith), Calvin Harris
- "In My Mind," Dyrnora
- "In My Feelings," Drake

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

ITUNES MOVIES BOOKS

The top 10 movies on iTunes for the week ending Oct. 7:

- "Ant-Man and the Wasp"
- "Scarico: Day of the Soldado"
- "Solo: A Star Wars Story"
- "Ocean's 8"
- "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom"
- "Hotel Transylvania 3"
- "Leave No Trace"
- "Three Identical Strangers"
- "The First Purge"
- "Hocus Pocus"



— Compiled by AP

The top 10 books on Apple's iBook charts for the week ending Oct. 7:

- "Red War," Kyle Mills & Vince Flynn
- "Behind Closed Doors," B.A. Paris
- "Don't Let Go," Harlan Coben
- "A Spark of Light," Jodi Picoult
- "Girl, Wash Your Face," Rachel Hollis
- "Ship of Fools" Tucker Carlson
- "The Christmas Scorpion: A Jack Reacher Story," Lee Child
- "The Fifth Risk," Michael Lewis
- "Lethal White," Robert Galbraith
- "Juror #3," James Patterson & Nancy Allen

— Compiled by AP

APPS

The top paid iPhone apps for the week ending Oct. 7:

- Minecraft
- Heads Up!
- NBA 2K19
- Facetune
- Plague Inc.
- Schedule
- Bloons TD 6
- Geometry Dash
- Pocket Bulb
- Earth Impact

— Compiled by AP

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1



From top to bottom: "All American," "black-ish" and "Jack Ryan" are on AFN this week.

TV's generous programming continues

The fall season cornucopia of new and returning television shows continues to deliver this week. Fans of "Supernatural," "Blindspot," "Dynasty," "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," "The Good Doctor," "The Flash," "Black Lightning," "Riverdale," "Shark Tank," "South Park" and "black-ish" get fresh episodes.

A few new shows premiere: "All American" follows a prep superstar football player who transfers from an inner-city

high school to a wealthy white enclave; "The Rookie" stars Nathan Fillion as a 40-year-old joining the police force; "Jack Ryan" takes the series about a CIA analyst thrust into field work to TV and stars John Krasinski; and "The Secret Life of Kids" is a reality show that captures kids talking about various subjects on hidden camera.

• All AFN shows at tinyurl.com/psynz28.

2

'The Fighters' tells stories of combat in Afghanistan

Not surprisingly, it's difficult for the average American who hasn't been to war to relate to the more than 2.7 million Americans who have served in wars since 2001. Former war correspondent C.J. Chivers seeks to demystify the experience in "The Fighters," which tells of troops' personal experiences gleaned from interviews and personal correspondence. The book gives a voice to those on the front lines who have no platform, and perhaps no desire, to tell their war stories — but they are war stories that the rest of us should be hearing.

• Book review on Page 38.



3

Twenty One Pilots keep up the good work with 'Trench'

Twenty One Pilots certainly made a statement with 2015's "Blurryface," as every song on it was a hit. "Trench," the fifth album from the duo of vocalist Tyler Joseph and drummer Josh Dun, maintains the same high quality, showing off the band's talent for genre-jumping through various styles and demonstrating a knack for songwriting. Fans should have plenty of fun trying to tease out hidden codes and meanings while listening to "Trench" on repeat.

• Album review on Page 36.

WEEKEND: MOVIES

‘First Man’ cast, crew unfazed by Trump’s criticism

By SARAH POLUS
The Washington Post

It’s an age-old adage: Don’t knock it ‘til you try it.

Or in the case of the new film “First Man,” it’s cast and crew say.

The hoopla that inevitably accompanies the build-up to a blockbuster debut took a surprisingly political turn for the new Damien Chazelle-directed film “First Man,” which focuses on Neil Armstrong’s journey to become the first human to set foot on the lunar surface. The point of contention lies not in what’s portrayed, but rather what’s left out — the act of planting the U.S. flag on the moon upon the astronauts’ arrival, the omission of which has led many, from Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., to President Donald Trump, to criticize the film.

“The American people paid for that mission, on rockets built by Americans, with American technology & carrying American astronauts,” Rubio wrote in an Aug. 31 tweet.

Trump called the omission a “terrible thing” in an interview with the Daily Caller.

“When you think of Neil Armstrong and when you think about the landing on the moon, you think about the American flag,” he said.

“So for that reason, I wouldn’t even want to watch the movie.”

At the D.C. premiere of “First Man,” held Oct. 4 at the Air and Space Museum, the movie’s filmmakers and stars said that the missing iconic imagery is exactly why you should see the movie.

Ryan Gosling, who portrays Armstrong, and Claire Foy, who plays his wife Janet Shearon, posed for photos yet dodged reporters on the red carpet, but others defended the film.

“That moment people are talking about is iconic, but something Damien really wanted to try to do with this picture was tell the personal, intimate story of Neil Armstrong,” film editor Tom Cross said. “We figured that most people are familiar with Neil, the icon, so we really wanted to show Neil, the man.”

People need to see the film for themselves, and they will probably be pleasantly surprised, said actor Shea Whigham, who plays astronaut Gus Grissom. “It’s an incredible piece of filmmaking,” he said. “When you have a generational talent like Damien Chazelle, you’re playing with house money. I can’t even explain how good he is.”

Ryan Gosling stars as Neil Armstrong in “First Man,” directed by Damien Chazelle.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP



‘First Man’ thrills, moves, perplexes

By JUSTIN CHANG
Los Angeles Times

The most captivating sequence in “First Man,” Damien Chazelle’s heart-stirring, nerve-jangling new movie about Neil Armstrong’s voyage to the moon, is in some ways the least surprising. If you were glued to a TV screen on July 20, 1969, you will be watching a truncated version of history replay itself: After the Eagle lands, Armstrong (played by Ryan Gosling) plants one foot on the lunar surface and utters a line that no screenwriter could improve upon. But you will also find yourself transported anew by a scene whose technical ingenuity and emotional force reminded me of nothing so much as Dorothy opening her front door to Oz for the first time.

The door, in this case, is attached to the Apollo 11’s lunar module, and on the other side is not a Technicolor wonderland but rather a vast, monochrome blankness. Planet Earth really does seem to have been left behind, leaving only a dark, airless void, a zone of desolation and wonder. The visuals are majestic — see the movie in Imax if you can — but the most arresting effect might be the sound, which briefly drops out entirely: In space, no one can hear you gasp.

The sheer sublimity of this sequence — the eerie silence, the stillness and clarity of the image — stands in sharp contrast to the rest of the movie, which is framed with almost defiant inelegance. “First Man” is a viscerally, sometimes maddeningly idiosyncratic piece of filmmaking. Adapted from James R. Hansen’s 2012 Armstrong biography, the movie has been

shot and structured as a series of ruptures — physical and emotional, individual and collective — that eventually give birth to a rare, serene moment of triumph.

Some in the audience may look back on that triumph and see an inevitability, a logical culmination of manifest destiny. But “First Man,” shunning the temptations of complacency and revisionism, unfolds in a jagged, immediate present tense in which uncertainty is the only certainty.

The early scenes of Armstrong as a young engineer and pilot in 1961, testing fighter planes at stratospheric altitudes, induce a dizzying claustrophobia. The clamorous noise of the engines and the rattling motions of the aircraft remind you of the violent irrationality of human flight. Even back on the ground, the camera, wielded by the cinematographer Linus Sandgren, maintains a persistent case of the jitters, compounded by the willful disorientation of Tom Cross’ editing. The screenplay by Josh Singer (“Spotlight,” “The Post”) compounds the effect in dramatic terms, piecing together a whiplash-inducing narrative of fatal setbacks and sudden breakthroughs.

Amid all this whirling, jolting technique is a quiet center of gravity named Neil Armstrong, whom Gosling invests with taciturn grace and an artfully dimmed version of the movie-star charm that animated his previous collaboration with Chazelle, “La La Land.” Armstrong, who largely retreated from the spotlight after Apollo 11, was famously the least flashy, most self-effacing of American icons, which presents a significant hurdle for any filmmaker trying to illuminate his inner life. Gosling’s performance sensibly em-

phasizes at least two irrefutable points: He didn’t say much, and he was very, very good at his job.

But “First Man” naturally wants to tell us more than that, to chronicle not just a staggering physical trek but also a deep journey inward. The movie’s challenge, one to which it rises determinedly if not always effectively, is to pare back the outer layers of Armstrong’s privacy without violating it. There’s a brief, solitary shot of him weeping after he and his wife, Janet (a strong Claire Foy), lose their 2-year-old daughter, Karen, to cancer — a loss that affects Neil so deeply, the movie suggests, that his only response can be to appear as outwardly unaffected as possible.

And so he throws himself into his work and moves with Janet and their two sons to Houston, where he enters an astronaut training program for NASA’s new Gemini spacecraft. The warm, respectful camaraderie Neil enjoys with his colleagues — they include his across-the-street neighbor Ed White (Jason Clarke), Gus Grissom (Shea Whigham), Roger Chaffee (Cory Michael Smith), Elliott See (Patrick Fugit), Jim Lovell (Pablo Schreiber) and Dave Scott (Christopher Abbott) — masks a gently understated rivalry within NASA’s ranks. It’s less understated in the case of Armstrong’s future Apollo 11 partner Buzz Aldrin, played in a delightfully obnoxious turn by Corey Stoll.)

But competitiveness gives way to stiff upper lip sorrow when the mission to the moon exacts a human toll in plane crashes and prelaunch accidents, triggering widespread criticism of the space program. “First Man” deftly elides a decade’s worth of national upheaval, as the space race finds itself caught between the mounting anxieties of the Cold War and the angry resistance of a public preoccupied with Vietnam and the civil rights movement. We hear snippets of President Kennedy’s 1962 “We Choose to Go to the Moon” speech, but also of Leon Bridges performing Gil Scott-Heron’s protest poem “Whitey on the Moon,” a politically charged anomaly on a soundtrack otherwise dominated by industrial noise and Justin Hurwitz’s gorgeously churning score.

In this picture’s thoughtful, eccentric and sometimes worshipful-to-a-fault telling, Armstrong emerges as an obsessive artist in his own right, an expert technician whose less quantifiable temperamental gifts — a preternatural calm, a wry sense of humor, a daredevil streak that never feels motivated by ego — may well have made the difference between life and death. His blend of obsessive workaholicism and emotional reserve almost makes him invulnerable, but it also distances him from Janet and their kids, who see increasingly little of him as he prepares for a journey from which he might not return.

Writing about “First Man” last month from the Toronto International Film Festival, I noted that I liked the idea of the movie more than I liked the movie itself. That still holds true, although a second viewing has closed the gap significantly. Chazelle seems to be trying to both uphold and transcend the narrative template established by astronaut dramas like “The Right Stuff” and “Apollo 13,” with their scenes of hard-working men barking orders from ground control (Kyle Chandler does the honors nicely here), and of astronauts’ wives worrying that they might soon be widows. Even his missteps — the visual monotony of the handheld closeups, the over-insistent evocations of Karen’s death — underscore his desire to tell a story of collective accomplishment through one man’s extraordinary perspective.

“First Man” is rated PG-13 for some thematic content involving peril, and brief strong language. Running time: 141 minutes.

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Pulpy thriller 'El Royale' lacks substance

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Drew Goddard, the screenwriter-turned-director whose feature debut was the meta-horror film "A Cabin in the Woods," has laid another movie trap.

This time, in the pulpy but artificial thriller "Bad Times at the El Royale," it's a motel. And as anyone who has ever watched a movie knows, bad things do indeed tend to happen in motels. Just ask Marion Crane or Llewelyn Moss.

The El Royale is Goddard's hermetically sealed site this time. It's a once-swanky, now-kitschy Lake Tahoe lodge — a blare of neon amid the pines — that straddles the state line. Half the motel lies in Nevada, half in California, and a red line of demarcation runs right through the middle. Rooms in California are \$1 cheaper, owing to the fact that that's the side with the bar.

Goddard's real-life inspiration was the similarly arranged Cal Neva, which in the '60s was a favored hangout of the Rat Pack, John F. Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe and an assortment of mobsters. When Frank Sinatra bought it, he built secret tunnels between bungalows. It was a notorious den of salaciousness and disrepute. Monroe spent her last weekend there.

Those heydays are long gone in "Bad Times at the El Royale." Set in 1969 as Nixon is taking office, the El Royale has lost its



20TH CENTURY FOX/AP

A decrepit Lake Tahoe motel plays host to seven strangers, each with a past they're looking to leave behind, in "Bad Times at the El Royale." With Chris Hemsworth (pictured), Jeff Bridges, Cynthia Erivo, Dakota Johnson, Jon Hamm, Gaelle Spaeny and Lewis Pullman.

gaming license and when guests begin arriving, they find a desolate lobby. It takes an eternity to arouse the jumpy manager (Lewis Pullman).

That's enough time for us to get lengthy introductions to our cast of travelers. There's a former bank robber posing as a priest from Indiana, Father Daniel Flynn (Jeff Bridges); a

Motown singer trying to go solo, Darlene Sweet (Cynthia Erivo); an FBI man posing as a vacuum salesman from Mississippi (Jon Hamm); and a pair of sisters on the run: Emily Summerspring (Dakota Johnson) and Ruth (Gaelle Spaeny). Turning up later will be Chris Hemsworth as a Charles Manson-like guru.

The production design (by

Martin Whist) is stellar; the atmosphere (a rainy night) is dense, and the cast terrific. So why is "Bad Times at the El Royale" kind of a slog? Goddard's film looks terrific and has all of the — as Hamm's character would say with exaggerated Southern flair — "accoutrements" of an intoxicating slow-burn thriller, but none of the payoff.

But it's continually tantalizing that something might be below the surface here beyond a belated Tarantino knockoff. Bridges naturally lends a gravitas to the movie's mysteries. Johnson, armed with a shotgun, seems poised to take over the film. When Hamm's agent finds dozens of surveillance devices and uncovers the motel's hidden tunnels, you'd swear a larger conspiracy is about to be revealed. And whenever Erivo (also in this fall's "Widows") is on screen, the film suddenly quivers with potential; her character's climactic soliloquy (not to mention her singing) is a high point in "Bad Times at the El Royale" that the film doesn't quite earn.

Goddard (who adapted "The Martian" and penned numerous "Lost" episodes) should be applauded for his patience in letting the story unfold in such a leisurely manner. (The film runs 140 minutes.) But just as in Tarantino's similarly styled "The Hateful Eight," slowness doesn't automatically make suspense.

For such a specifically set movie, the motel's dark past goes curiously unexamined. Heightened as Goddard's movie is, "Bad Times at the El Royale" might be the unusual Hollywood thriller to not live up to the real-life drama of its pseudo setting. Like its motel, "El Royale" is just a front.

"Bad Times at the El Royale" is rated R for strong violence, language, some drug content and brief nudity. Running time: 140 minutes.

Kid-friendly monster mash
'Goosebumps 2' misses mark

BY KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

The 2015 adaptation of R.L. Stine's popular "Goosebumps" book series was way better than it had any right to be. Starring Jack Black as a freewheeling version of the author, the film was a kid-friendly Halloween spookfest that examined the way we use horror as a coping mechanism in everyday life. It was smart and silly and scary, anchored by the inimitable Black. But the follow-up, "Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween," is a serious disappointment, starting with how Black is barely in it. Less Black, less 'bumps, as it turns out.

It's not just the lack of Black that has a detrimental effect. There's a changeover of writing and directing teams, writers Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski and director James P. Glicken replaced by writer Rob Lieber and director Ari Sandel. Darren Lemke stays on as co-writer, but no holdovers from the original cast, either. Turning it into an anthology franchise, there's a new group of kids in a new town, Wardencliff, N.Y., who are taken in by the evil machinations of ventriloquist dummy Slappy.

So Jeremy Ray Taylor and his friend Sam (Caleel Harris) pick up Slappy

at an old creepy house while doing a junk run. Of course they promptly recite the incantation found in his pocket, as one does when one happens upon a terrifying puppet, and bring him home. Slappy, who apparently longs for a family, is happy to ingratiate himself with Sonny's sister, Sarah (Madison Iseman), a senior struggling with a scummy boyfriend and college applications, and their harried, snarky mom, Kathy (Wendi McLendon-Covey).

The plot is of little consequence. All that matters is once Slappy's out of the box, he wants to make some mischief, and mischief he makes, with the assistance of all the creatures he brings into existence. But instead of raising R.L. Stine's monsters from the page, Slappy merely animates every Halloween decoration in sight. One sequence features Slappy raising every inert costume and seasonal totem from the Halloween aisle at the drug store, turning the classic creatures into zombie monster minions. Halloween-obsessed neighbor Mr. Chu (Ken Jeong) also provides great fodder for Slappy with his elaborate holiday decorations.

But none of the flimsy nylon monsters are scary at all. An enormous spider made out of balloons just doesn't have the gravitas. This is a kid-friendly monster mash, but it's truly no graveyard smash. All the clever references have been drained from



SONY/TNS

In "Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween," the spooky holiday comes to life in a second adaptation of R.L. Stine's popular books. Starring (from left) Madison Iseman, Jeremy Ray Taylor and Caleel Harris.

the script. Even the cute and creative monsters, like the giant gummy bears that attempt to devour Sonny and Sam, are not enough to enliven the story, which simply throws chaos at a basic plot in an attempt to disguise that it's incredibly thin.

The only performance worth mentioning is Jeong, who brings his energetic weirdness to a rather small role. His character has the kind of genuine, off-the-walls enthusiasm for spooks and scares

that would have made the movie a blast to watch had it centered around him. His character operates much like Black's Stine does, offering a safe entry into the world of monsters and ghouls to the children around him. It's a shame "Goosebumps 2" misses the mark so badly, when the first film was such a surprising and delightful hook.

"Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween" is rated PG for scary creature action and images, rude humor and language. Running time: 90 minutes.

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Entertaining ODYSSEY

Latest Assassin's Creed will please those who take time to truly play it

By Christopher Byrd
Special to The Washington Post

The Assassin's Creed series is known for making playgrounds out of history. From the banks of the Nile in ancient Egypt to the cobblestone streets of Victorian London, the games hopscotch through momentous epochs in human civilization, trailing intrigue and corpses in their wake.

"Assassin's Creed Odyssey" uses the Peloponnesian War, which ensnared Athens and Sparta between 431 and 404 B.C., as the shell for its heroic story. Befitting its name, "Odyssey" is a mammoth game, the kind one can sink a few dozen hours into and still have a staggering number of tasks before the credits roll. Because many of those things are similar to one another, the game straddles the line between being content rich and content superfluous. (I've found myself waffling between those two perspectives so far during my time with it.)

In "Odyssey," players can choose to play as Alexios or Kassandra, two estranged siblings. Depending on your choice, you will follow one sibling as he or she moves from the periphery to the center of power in the Greek world — the court of Pericles — and beyond. As someone who lived in Athens for a couple of years as a child, I found myself almost immediately disoriented by the setting. I was so taken with the game's evocation of Mediterranean beauty — that sky! those beaches! — I forgot to unlock fast travel, which allows you to zip between certain points in the world, until I was several hours into the game. Given the number of Ubisoft's open-world games I have played and my usual inclination to hook up shortcuts ASAP, I assure you that I was surprised by my neglect.

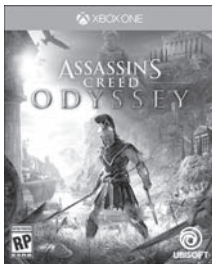
The developers have been vocal about incorporating more RPG mechanics into "Odyssey," like branching dialogue, unforeseen consequences tied to players' choices, and the ability to romance different non-playable characters (NPCs), yet no one that requires one to skulk around fortified areas to steal things when the places in question so



"Odyssey" felt like a post-"Witcher 3" game after I encountered a family in what remained of a plague-ravaged village. The family was about to be executed when they begged me to stay the hand of the men who meant to kill them so as to contain the plague. As I left them to their fate, it seemed to me that the lose-lose predicament in which I'd found myself (I'd guessed that if I let the family live they would have infected others) felt very much like something out of the Witcher's nebulous ethical universe.

During my time as Alexios, I enjoyed hobnobbing with the luminaries of antiquity. I asked Hippocrates an impertinent question about his legendary baldness, I watched Herodotus draw many long faces while discussing the imbroglio between city-states and, at a symposium, I helped Sophocles prank Aristophanes. Though none of these characters struck me as particularly deep portraits of their historical counterparts, the classicist in me enjoyed the fantasy all the same. The overall amount of historical details referenced in the game is entrancing.

Apart from gawking at the game's scenery and generally welcoming its conversational offerings, "Odyssey's" action has yet to yield many water cooler moments. In gameplay terms, this year's "Assassin's Creed" feels a lot like last year's. I find it hard to get excited by the number of missions in the new game that require one to skulk around fortified areas to steal things when the places in question so



often appear similar to one another. Moreover, it's easy enough to exploit enemy A.I. so that cat-and-mouse routines quickly descend into folly. (A simple way to cheese the game is to stand on a tall building with a broad roof and pelt the enemy patrols below with arrows, then lose their attention by sneaking over to the opposite end of the area.)

Of the many scrapes I've gotten into, the most memorable showed how "Odyssey's" gameplay systems can mix and, on occasion, produce a novel result. After amassing a sizable bounty on Alexios' head, I attracted a formidable band of drachma-hungry mercenaries. I did my best to throw them off Alexios' trail before going on a quest to kill a mythical boar. While fighting the boar, I drew the attention of two of the mercenaries that were hunting me. Then I watched as the mercenaries tangled with the boar while



Photos courtesy of Ubisoft

In "Assassin's Creed Odyssey," players take on the role of a mercenary during the era of Ancient Greece.

I shot arrows at everyone from afar; I love it when my enemies make life simpler for me.

Similar to last year's "Origins," players also take on the role of Layla Hassan who is reliving the "genetic memories" of Alexios or Kassandra in the present via a machine designed for such activity.

It has been more than a decade since the original game introduced this contemporary plotline, but I still dig the idea that the player is playing a character who is using a machine developed by a corporation to access

the memories of people from the past. That scenario has always struck me as cleverly self-reflexive, a deft way for the storytellers to acknowledge the games' artificiality, not to mention their place as corporate products.

"Odyssey" will entertain those who are likely to be entertained by another "Assassin's Creed" game, but anyone with a shortage of time on their hands might want to go sightseeing elsewhere.

Platforms: PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One
Online: assassin'screed.ubisoft.com



More game reviews at [stripes.com/games](https://www.stripes.com/games)

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



The Museum of Ancient Seafaring in Mainz, Germany, displays replicas of late Roman patrol vessels as well as an original hull dug up in the city in the early 1980s. The museum traces the development of early shipbuilding and includes a workshop where visitors can watch staff build reproductions of ancient ships.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

SEE-WORTHY

A trip to Mainz's Museum of Ancient Seafaring offers visitors insight into Roman shipbuilding



ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The museum is within walking distance of two train stations, Roemisches Theater and Stadtpark.

TIMES

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Sundays; closed Mondays. Check website for special hours schedules on German holidays.

COSTS

Admission is free.

FOOD

The museum does not have a cafe, but there are many restaurants nearby.

INFORMATION

Website: tinyurl.com/yd5bzysf, phone: +49 (0)6131-2866-

316, email: service@rjgm.de

Guided tours, family days every last Sunday of the month, and birthday parties at the museum are available.

— Jennifer H. Svan

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The best thing about the Museum of Ancient Seafaring — besides free admission — is the connection it makes to Mainz's distant, storied history as a Roman military camp.

Two thousand years ago, this city teemed with Roman soldiers drawn there by the mighty Rhine, which once marked the northern frontier of the Roman Empire in mainland Europe.

From the former Celtic settlement named Mogontiacum, after the Celtic god Mogo, the Romans patrolled the Rhine and navigated it for trade and exploration.

The past collided with the present in the early 1980s, when workers found a fleet of nine wooden Roman warships while digging the foundation for an addition to the Hilton Hotel in Mainz.

The remains of five of those vessels, in various stages of preservation, make up the heart of the seafaring museum.

The museum opened in 1994 in a former railway repair shop to showcase the rare finds.

As The New York Times reported when the vessels were uncovered in 1982, few other Roman ships have been found in modern times in northern Europe. Made of German oak, the ships were waterlogged but

otherwise fairly well-preserved, buried in 12 to 15 feet of clay, the newspaper reported.

The museum displays some of the vessels in original form — mostly just hulls or partial hulls. But there are also full-scale replicas of the old Roman patrol vessels. A sign in English describes how one was built by museum employees and temporary workers, keeping "true to the late Roman originals" in nearly every detail. Some restored pieces that weren't recovered with the originals were based on archaeological finds from other sites, such as the anchor, the shield design and ropes. A large sail powered the boat when it traveled downwind.

The museum's other exhibits detail Roman ship construction and the development of plank boat building throughout the Old World, as well as propulsion and steering technology. Letters describe life in the Roman navy, and epitaphs from gravestones tell of the fate of ancient mariners.

The museum is small but nicely laid out, with high ceilings and windows that let in ample natural light. An adjoining workshop allows visitors to watch employees work on reproductions of historic ships.

The exhibit information is in German and limited English.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Daring to leave Switzerland's beaten track

Switzerland is excellent at promoting itself, and its most famous experiences — the Matterhorn, the fondue, the chocolate — are worth the hype. But if you're planning a Swiss adventure, consider these lesser-known Swiss travel treats as well.

Experience Swiss military readiness.

To protect its prized neutrality in the tumultuous 20th century, Switzerland wired its roads, bridges and tunnels so they could be destroyed with the push of a button — they tried to make the whole country an impenetrable mountain fortress. Most of these military installations — big guns in barns, air strips hiding like the Batmobile, and even hospitals buried deep in the mountains — are now tourist attractions, such as Fortress Fuoriger near Lucerne.

Go topless on an alpine train. While Switzerland has many impressive train trips and fancy "panoramic" cars, the most thrilling ride is in an open-top car. You'll be awestruck both at Switzerland's alpine wonders and its ability to tame nature with its railroad engineering. These topless or skylight-equipped trains run only in summer.

Hike an alpine crest. One of Switzerland's most glorious hikes is the walk along the ridge called Schynige Platte to the cable-car station of First, high above the Lauterbrunnen Valley in the mountainous Berner Oberland region. You're virtually tightrope-walking along a skinny ridge for several hours. On one side are lakes; on the other is a mountain panorama of dramatic cut-glass peaks. And ahead, you may hear the long legato tones of an alphon announcing that a helicopter-stocked mountain hut is open ... and

the coffee schnapps is on.

Get the big-city perspective. Zurich is one of those cities that tourists tend to skip right through. But it's worth a day if you can spare it. Its historical Niederdorf district is dense with fun restaurants and



Rick Steves

shops, the Swiss National Museum is an interesting primer on all things Swiss, and the Kunsthaus has the country's top collection of fine art. Meanwhile, Zurich affords a peek at Swiss solutions to persistent urban

problems — for example, what appear to be designer boulders in the sidewalk are there to stop cars of thieves from crashing into jewelry stores for a grab-and-run.

Walk the path of a hermit monk. A century ago, a hermit monk inhabited a humble church in a cave just under a mountaintop plateau called Ebenalp, high above the town of Appenzel. A cliff-hugging path leads around the corner to the humble guesthouse that was built — right into the vertical cliff side — to accommodate pilgrims who had hiked up to pray with the monk. While the guesthouse isn't currently accepting overnight stays — and its restaurant is undergoing renovations that might close it for a while — the hut's setting is impressive enough to merit the excursion.

Ponder some insane art. Lausanne's Collection de l'Art Brut is unique in Europe. In 1945, the artist Jean Dubuffet began collecting art he called brut — un-



CAMERON HEWITT/Ricksteves.com

A humble guesthouse built into the vertical cliff side of Appenzel's Ebenalp summit once housed pilgrims who hiked up to pray.

trained, ignoring rules, highly original, produced by people free from artistic culture and fashion trends living in psychiatric hospitals and prisons. Visiting his collection, you'll wander through halls of fascinating doodles and screaming colors, marveling at the talent of people our society has locked up as "criminally insane."

Relive the Swiss old days. At the Balenberg Open-Air Museum (an hour east of Interlaken on Lake Brienz), traditional houses, schools, churches and shops from all over Switzerland have been moved to

a huge park. The layout is just like the country: French in the west, Italian in the south, and so on. Each dwelling is furnished, old-time crafts are kept alive, and goat herders are toting their slender stretch alpenhorns. It's Swiss culture on a lazy Susan for the hurried visitor, and a great rainy-day option in the Berner Oberland.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Sausage festival in Budapest

Fans of bacon, sausage and other meaty treats will find themselves in foodie heaven at the Sausage Festival of Budapest, a tasty celebration of all things pork. The festival takes place at the Hungarian Railway Museum and the adjacent Water Tower Park on Oct. 12-14.

More than 250 sorts of sausages, from those made of goat to the spicy Csabai varieties, await sampling and purchase here. Other quality foodstuffs on offer include cheese, jam, honey, spices and baked goods.

A side program of entertainment offers something for everyone. Children might enjoy a storytelling theater, folk playground, old-fashioned swings and wooden carousels or a petting zoo where they can feed the animals. All ages can try their hand at farm duties of yesteryear at the museum's agricultural exhibition. Farmers dressed in traditional clothing offer a four-hour presentation on how their forebears transformed a living pig into cuts of meat. Those who need a little bolstering in order to take that in can enjoy swigs of the locals' preferred tipple, a potent fruit brandy known as Palinka. A craft market, folk performances and concerts round out the offerings.

The festival hours are 1 p.m.-10 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Sat-



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

urday and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday. Admission to some of the zones is free, but for access to all areas, adults must purchase tickets at a cost of 2,000 Hungarian Forint (about \$7.10); ages 3-14 pay 1500 HUF, and those under three enter free for a family ticket goes for 6,000 HUF. A free shuttle ferries guests from the Western Railway station (Nyugati Pályaudvar) to the festival grounds. Online: tinyurl.com/ood5d45

Light festival in Prague

Old Prague shines through Oct. 14, as the SIGNAL Festival of Lights illuminates the Czech capital. The sixth edition of a festival that's quickly become one of the biggest cultural events in the country focuses on Czech artists and the upcoming 100-year anniversary of the Republic.

Three main festival routes wind through the city center, Vinohrady, and for the first time the up-and-coming district of Karlín. Visitors can see 22 light installations, 14 of them by Czech light artists.

The installations grace churches, squares, palaces, an orchard and a section of the Vltava river. Among the types of light displays are 3D and interactive installations, projections and video mapping.

Karlín's highlights include 3D video mapping against the Kasarna Karlín, a projection on the facade of the Main Point office building, and a site-specific installation inspired by a nearby church on Karlínské Square. The Central route runs past light art in the Clam-Gallas Palace, Old Town Square and Ovocný Trh. The seven installations along the Vinohrady route explore contemporary topics including ecology, sustainability and a population under constant surveillance.

The installations can be viewed from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Five installations are located inside architecturally significant buildings; entry to this area, known as the Gallery Zone, is subject to a fee. Adult entry costs 170 Czech Koruna (about \$7.60) for adults and CZK 100 for students and seniors. To take in 3D audio-visual mapping in Kasarna Karlín, a CZK 50 fee applies. Online: www.signalfestival.com/program/centrum/



Courtesy of signalfestival.com

The SIGNAL Festival of Lights, in Prague through Oct. 14, will dazzle visitors with 22 creative light installations.

Concerts rock Hassfurt and Schweinfurt

Honky Tonk Festivals are a series of musical events staged throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland over the past 25 years. With the purchase of a festival bracelet, music lovers can take in a variety of concerts as they pass through a city's bars, pubs and other venues over the course of a single evening.

This good idea is made all the better through the weekend, and the two cities of Hassfurt and Schweinfurt, Germany, team up to offer two consecutive nights of listening pleasure. Things kick off on Oct. 12 in Hassfurt, which makes its debut in the Honky Tonk world with six locations.

The groups on board play rock, funk, Latin American and other sounds from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m.

In Schweinfurt, the birthplace of the Honky Tonk event, the first of the concerts start at 7 p.m. Oct. 13 and 24 venues rock to the sounds of blues, hardcore, alternative metal, folk, soul and other genres. Bands play until 2 a.m. at most venues; two sites host after-parties that go until 5 a.m.

A bracelet bought on either event night goes for 15 euros and is valid for entry to all venues in both cities. Some of the festival-goers who make the 14-minute journey between the two cities by train will be treated to a concert while on board. Online: honkytonk.de

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY WILL MORRIS/Stars and Stripes

The dining room of P.F. Chang's at Germany's Ramstein Air Base awaits hungry customers. The restaurant sets itself apart with excellent food, good service and an outstanding dining experience.

After Hours: Germany

By WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

When I walked into P.F. Chang's on Ramstein Air base last weekend, I had given up all hope of ever finding decent Chinese food in the Kaiserslautern area.

Everywhere I have gone, it's been the same — cheap, improperly made food that is laden with salt and barely edible. The last time I ordered Pad Thai noodles in town, it had so much salt on it, I tossed it.

I had also given up on casual dining on base. Three weeks ago, the last time I ate at a restaurant that shall go nameless, they served me a hamburger patty that was burned black halfway through. The time before that, it was guacamole that was turning brown.

Well, now I can truly say that I have been to the mountain. I have seen the light. My faith is restored. Praise the Lord and the crab wontons that he provides!

P.F. Chang's has, without a doubt, the best Asian-style food I have eaten in the Kaiserslautern Military Community or, for that matter, anywhere in Europe. When you combine that with the service and overall dining experience, it's a shot across the bow of all but a handful of other restaurants in K-Town.

The menu was clearly compiled by someone who is well versed in the highlights of Asian cuisine. Dishes from China, Japan, Thailand, Korea and more — all the mainstays you know and crave can be found here.

The cooks clearly care about the food they make. Except for certain products that have to be shipped over from the States, everything is fresh and made to order. The one taste that overwhelms every other Asian restaurant in K-Town, salt, has been replaced with something commonly known as flavor.

For dinner, I recommend the Combo Lo Mein — beef, pork and chicken cooked perfectly with an assortment of vegetables drizzled with just the right amount of soy sauce. For lunch, try the Tokyo Udon Noodle Bowl, a type of stir-fried noodles with vegetables and chicken or beef.

Beware, though: The noodle bowl is mild in the beginning, but the sauce draws out the seasoning and gets more spicy as you get to the bottom of the bowl.

For breakfast, order anything on the menu, put it in a box and take it home and hide it from your family until morning.

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The Korean mainstay bibimbap is among the Asian dishes served at P.F. Chang's. If you can't catch a flight to the suburbs of Seoul, catch someone going to Ramstein Air Base for a completely respectable version of this dish.



The lo mein noodles served by P.F. Chang's at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, are amazing, and include fresh veggies cooked with care.

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Prices: Entrees average \$12

Dress: Casual

Information: Phone (+49)(0)63-747-7981, website: tinyurl.com/7jxnjw

— William Morris

Stout beer adds richness to gingerbread bundt cake

By America's Test Kitchen

In our opinion, gingerbread is only worth eating if its flavor is unmistakably bold and spicy. For our gingerbread bundt cake, the standard liquid combination of mild molasses and water seemed lackluster.

Robust molasses had more presence in our scaled-up cake, and we replaced the water with stout for a deeper flavor profile. The beer gave the cake a malty tang that tasters loved. Powdered ginger provided a spicy kick, and a little cinnamon and allspice contributed warm notes.

Blooming the spices in melted butter — a technique the test kitchen uses for savory spiced dishes — intensified their flavor, but tasters still wanted more

ginger. A bit of grated fresh ginger added another layer of heat that the dried spice alone couldn't muster. And another traditionally savory ingredient, black pepper, added a mild bite that further enhanced the ginger flavor.

We used the glaze as one final opportunity to turn up the heat by mixing a little ground ginger in with the confectioners' sugar and adding a few tablespoons of ginger ale to thin the glaze to just the right consistency. Guinness is the test kitchen's preferred brand of stout for this cake.

Be sure to use finely ground black pepper here. Do not use blackstrap molasses in this recipe. An equal amount of orange or lemon juice can be substituted for the ginger ale in the glaze.

BOLD AND SPICY GINGERBREAD BUNDT CAKE

Servings: 12
Start to finish: 1 hour 45 minutes

Ingredients:

Cake:
2½ cups (12½ ounces) all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
¾ teaspoon baking soda
¾ teaspoon salt
16 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons ground ginger
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground allspice
¼ teaspoon pepper
4 large eggs, room temperature
1½ cups (10½ ounces) granulated sugar
4 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
¼ cup robust or full molasses
¾ cup stout beer (preferably Guinness)

Glaze:
1¼ cups (7 ounces) confectioners' sugar
3 tablespoons ginger ale
1 teaspoon ground ginger

Cake directions: Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 375°F. Spray a 12-cup nonstick Bundt pan with baking spray, then dust with flour. Whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt together in bowl.

Melt butter in medium saucepan over medium heat. Stir in ground ginger, cinnamon, allspice and pepper and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Remove from heat and let butter mixture cool slightly.

Whisk eggs, sugar and fresh ginger together in large bowl until light and frothy. Stir in melted butter mixture, molasses and beer until incorporated. Add flour mixture to egg mixture and whisk until no lumps remain.

Transfer batter to prepared pan and smooth top with rubber spatula. Gently tap pan on counter to release air bubbles. Bake until skewer inserted in center comes out clean, about 45 minutes, rotating pan halfway through baking. Let cake cool in pan on wire rack set in rimmed baking sheet for 20 minutes. Invert cake onto rack, remove pan and let cool completely, about 2 hours.

Glaze directions: Whisk sugar, ginger ale and ginger together in bowl until smooth. Drizzle glaze over cooled cake and let set, about 15 minutes, before serving. (Cake can be stored at room temperature for up to 2 days.)



JOE KELLER, AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN/AP

Stout beer and ample portions of ginger in both cake and glaze boost the bold and spicy flavors of this gingerbread bundt cake.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



RACHEL WALKER/For The Washington Post

Mountain guide Sandro de Zolt, left, takes visitors on adventures of all types, including multi-pitch climbs, ski mountaineering and hiking. Here, he descends Monte Castellazzo in Italy with a client.

NO SNOW REQUIRED

Italy's Dolomites a pleasure to explore in the offseason

By RACHEL WALKER

Special to The Washington Post

I had two challenges to overcome when planning a late-May trip to Northern Italy's Trentino-South Tyrol region: a major snow year and the offseason.

The first meant that the thousands of miles of trails in the rugged Dolomite mountains were still buried. The second meant that many of the high-alpine refugios, famed for hearty food and rustic lodging, were closed between winter and summer. One more thing—I arrived in the rain, and the forecast called for more storms throughout my trip. For a trail runner eager to spend the night at staffed mountain huts while completing a multiday traverse, things looked grim.

At least, that was my initial reaction. Then I connected with Sandro de Zolt, an internationally certified mountain guide and a gear tester for La Sportiva, the outdoor footwear and apparel company based in Val di Fiemme, a narrow valley at the base of the Dolomites where mountains loom over storied pine forests. Sandro was born and raised in a military station at Passo Rolle, where he learned to ski at 2 and was scaling the mammoth cliffs of his backyard with his father at 7.

Nothing to do in his home stomping grounds in May? Pshaw.

True, I wouldn't disappear into the mountains for days at a time on this trip, he said. But with his guidance, I would get a well-rounded tour of the entire region—an idyllic mountainous area inhabited since ancient Roman times—through day hikes, local drives and, thanks to a happy scheduling coincidence, glimpses of some of the world's best cyclists in the Giro d'Italia, a three-week, multistage, grand-tour race whose mountain stages overlapped with my stay in the area.

The chief highlight of a week that included many was a vigorous and scenic 15-mile hike that included

KNOW & GO

FOOD

Planitzer Winery and Tavern, Glen 25, Gleno di Sotto, Montagna; 011-39-0471-819-407; planitzer.it/tavern

A farm-to-table spot that serves housemade wine and spirits, Planitzer is situated among vineyards in Trudner Horn Nature Park and adjacent to an elaborate trail system. Entrees start at about \$18.

Il Maso dello Speck, Pozze di sopra, 2, Daiano; 011-39-0462-342244; titospeck.it

Speck, a cured pork that abounds in Northern Italy, Austria, and Germany, is on every menu in the region. This restaurant has been owned by the Braito family for more than 50 years. A la carte menu starts at about \$8.

Gelateria Artigianale Tarifa, Via Giovanni Segantini, 51, Arco; 011-39-0464-519-451; bit.ly/GelateriaArtigianaleTarifa

Artisanal gelato sold here is creamy and rich. It's rumored to be among the best in the region. Scoops start at about \$4.50.

ACTIVITIES

Sandro de Zolt is a certified mountain guide with specialties in multi-pitch rock climbing, mountaineering, ski-touring, trail running, day hikes and cycling. Rates start at about \$350 per day, but vary by activity. 011-39-339-621-0045; sandro.dezolt@gmail.com

INFORMATION

Online: visittrentino.it

summitting Monte Castellazzo (7,650 feet) and being guided to staggering views of enormous mountains and a huge statue of Jesus positioned in the pose of Rodin's "The Thinker." Sandro, a friend and I started hiking in the woods and followed a creek up a steep grade for about a mile before the trail jogged left and climbed to a grassy ridge. That's when I was rendered speechless. Ahead of us, mountains powered out of the earth, bold giants of rock and ice with patches of snow clinging to the exposed cliffs, creating a beautiful mosaic of gray and white leaning into the sharp, blue sky.

An emerald field colored by wildflowers spread out before the mountains, and in its center was one of the region's famous high Alpine refugios—which was, as expected, closed.

Sandro, who is also the chief of mountain rescue in Val di Fiemme, asked if he would be interested in an espresso. Of course we would. Once we regained our composure, we walked toward those incredible peaks, through which ran a narrow road and tiny village, until we reached Passo Rolle, home of the military station where he grew up as well as several hotels, a small ski area—and a roadside espresso stand.

Caffeinated, we continued upward to the summit of Monte Castellazzo. From the peak, we savored simple sandwiches of salami and fresh mozzarella on Italian bread as we gazed down on a sprawling snowfield at the foot of a trifecta of classic Dolomite peaks (Bureloni, Vezzana, Cimón della Pala). It's an understatement to say that I was absolutely not thinking about all the things I couldn't do in the Dolomites at that time of year. Instead, I was immersed in the moment.

Initially settled by the Romans in 15 B.C., the Trentino-South Tyrol is made up of two self-governing provinces that are among the wealthiest in Italy. Before Italian control in the 1940s, however, this area was part of Austria-Hungary and, before that, the Austrian Empire and, before that, the Holy Roman Empire. During both world wars, the mountainous borders saw much conflict; today's refugios began as wartime bunkers.

Outdoor recreation started around the 1950s with the arrival of winter skiers and mountaineers eager to summit the high peaks. Cortina d'Ampezzo, a resort in the Dolomites, was the site of the 1956 Winter Olympics, and is a stop on the present-day World Cup Circuit for Alpine skiing. Fly-fishing has arrived, according to Sandro, and the multitude of trails, trails and chairlifts create an extensive adventure network interspersed with unique and charming villages.

Unlike many mountain towns in North America, which typically began as mining, ranching or railroad towns and have a more recent history, this area is thick with legacy. Many of the village

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



Sometimes referred to as the Matterhorn of the Dolomites, Cimón della Pala is the best-known peak of a group of mountains called the Pale di San Martino.



RACHEL WALKER/For The Washington Post

Nettle dumplings, a specialty in the Sud-Tyrol region of Italy, are served in a rich, buttery broth.

FROM PAGE 30

residents, such as Sandro and his fiancée, Giulia Delladio — who will be the fourth generation to run La Sportiva, which her great grandfather founded in 1928 — have been there for generations. True, the mountains are the main draw. But I was pleasantly surprised to discover how much else there was to experience.

“Drive from the lake up and through Pregasina — it might feel like you’re going on someone’s driveway — until you reach the church. Park and then take any of the trails that start; they are all worthwhile.” So read Sandro’s text when I asked for a terrific, off-the-beaten-path hike near Lake Garda, Italy’s largest freshwater body.

At the lake’s edge, palm trees indicated a Mediterranean climate. In the tiny village of Pregasina, the church’s parking lot was full of cars, and a crowd of hikers spread out onto a web of trails. Trail 422A, Sandro’s suggestion, was a thin path that led to the land’s edge and then climbed over the undulating landscape to a prominent viewpoint. On my left was a sheer drop over the cliffs, hundreds of feet to the water, where sailboats bobbed like tiny toys. On my right, the forest thickened and burst with the sound of songbirds and rustling critters. The sky was overcast, but the views were still rewarding: stacks of mountains falling into the dark blue water below. The lake was vast, its end nowhere in sight.

On my way home, I caught the hill-climbing stage of the cycling tour, which was quick, colorful and abuzz with action.

Children zoomed across the cobbled plaza of Arco, a small town near the lake. Bordered by limestone cliffs on one side, Arco is famous for its annual Rock Master event, an international climbing competition.

It is also home to Galateria Artigianale Tariffa, where I savored the creamiest pistachio gelato I had during my trip.

Another recommendation from Sandro took me to Plataner, a wood-hewn restaurant between Trento, a classic Italian city with cobblestone streets and a beautiful plaza with a fountain at its center, and Val di Fiemme. Plataner serves food grown by its neighbors and makes its own wine and liquors.

This was my introduction to nettle dumplings. Two large dumplings the size of a child’s fist arrived in a rich, buttery sauce. With a texture similar to gnocchi and an earthy flavor, the savory dumplings were pleasantly filling.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Beyond the beach

Take your taste buds and your camera on a tour of Kauai

By DANIEL BEEKMAN/*The Seattle Times*

Floating on the waves and hiking through the jungle are must-do activities on Kauai. But to better commune with the westernmost of the well-populated Hawaiian Islands, I also wanted to taste the local bounty.

Fortunately, there are great ways to savor what makes Kauai unique without breaking the bank at gourmet restaurants. There may be nowhere else on Earth you can visit a coffee farm, a microbrewery and a cacao farm in such close proximity, surrounded by lush mountains and sandy bays.

Coffee by the ocean

I had never encountered an actual coffee tree until we made a trek to Kauai Coffee Company's picturesque plantation by the sea. Situated near Hanalepe on the island's south shore, the land was for 100 years a sprawling sugar estate owned by the wealthy Alexander and Baldwin families.

Their company began growing coffee rather than cane on the land in the 1980s, as sugar plantations across the Hawaiian Islands were closed down.

"Beet sugar started to replace cane sugar," said Darla Domingo, who manages the plantation welcome center, where you can sample a variety of Kauai Coffee brews and join walking tours to see the red and yellow cherries that encase the precious beans. "When I moved here in 1990, there were still five sugar plantations," Domingo said. "Now there are none."

The estate is massive, with 4 million trees covering 3,100 acres tended to by more than 100 union workers.

Multinational company Massimo Zanetti runs the coffee operation, so the atmosphere is more corporate than homey,

With a bit more time, you can watch delicate taro chips sizzling in oil and buy aromatic lychees by the bag. A friend and I managed all of the above in between naps at the beach, and our farm-to-table adventures introduced us to people and places we would have otherwise missed.

"We have agricultural land, agricultural history and agricultural values," said chocolate farmer Will Lydgate, whose relatives have lived on Kauai since the 1800s. "We love selling what we grow to visitors. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. That's our state motto."

OTHER OPTIONS

- Koloa Rum tasting room: koloarum.com/tasting-room
- Kauai Food Tours: tastingkauai.com
- Hariguchi Rice Mill tour: hariguchiricemill.org/tours
- Waipa Foundation Food and Farm tour (on hold during repairs to Kuhio Highway, which are tentatively expected to conclude in October): waipafoundation.org/visit

and the brews themselves are less than spectacular.

But there was something magical about strolling down rows of coffee trees, their waxy green leaves shimmering, within view of the ocean. Because the trees need mild sun and rain, they're mostly cultivated on shady mountainsides, like the slopes of volcanoes on Hawaii's Big Island.

Hourlong Coffee on the Brain plantation tours at Kauai Coffee Company in Kalaheo are \$20 per person and start at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday through Thursday

and Sunday. Shorter walking tours, daily at 10 a.m., noon, 2 and 4 p.m., are free. kauaicoffee.com.

The master chipmaker

For a more rustic experience, try Hanalepe, a sunbaked little river town with historic storefronts. Stomachs rumbling, we parked outside the ramshackle building with peeling paint where Dale Nagamine has made taro chips for 36 years.

The taro root plant is a staple in native Hawaiian cuisine, and Nagamine's chips are sliced letter-thin, dusted with garlic salt, deep-fried and baked.

The sign beside the door read Taro Ko Chips Factory, but the timeworn kitchen was barely large enough for Nagamine and a pal, who were watching football when we arrived.

Flecked with purple, his crunchy snacks are understated yet addictive.

"I grow the taro in the valley over there. I make the chips and sell them here," he shrugged. "That's about it."

Local suds

Another laid-back option is the Kauai

Beer Company (kauaibeer.com) brewpub in Lihue, the southeast-shore town where the island's airport is also located. It's open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

The suds are top-notch, the grub is tasty and the vibe set by easygoing owner Jim Greuber is friendly, attracting a mix of tourists and locals.

When we popped in for lunch, the other customers included mainland families and construction workers.

"We have birthday parties, readings, business meetings," said Greuber, who was raised in Pennsylvania and began brewing beer in his garage back in 1978. "Everyone is welcome here."

The hops and barley are imported, but Greuber and his son, Justin, write the recipes themselves and brew the beer on-site — about 650 pints per day.

Their mainstay is Lihue Lager, while their pride and joy, Black Limousine, combines a light taste and dark color.

"The water here on Kauai is conducive to lighter beers," said Greuber, who moved to the island in 1996.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



PHOTOS BY DANIEL BEEKMAN, SEATTLE TIMES/TNS

Lydgate Farms tour guide Andrea Kiser shows off the inside of a cacao fruit. Tours — which take place rain or shine — are available, and feature a chocolate tasting.



A lot of sun and a lot of rain make Kauai a good place to grow many different fruits, says a member of an orchard-owning family.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific

After Hours: Japan

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

At many of Japan's popular chain coffee shops, such as Starbucks or Doutor, massive amounts of coffee are brewed in a carafe and served to patrons hours later. While the method is efficient and delivers a brew that's fine for a quick coffee fix, independent cafe owners across the country have shunned this practice in favor of a more artisanal coffee experience where cups are carefully brewed one at a time. In fact, cities like Kyoto, which has an abundance of these small, hip cafes, are now must-visit destinations for coffee connoisseurs.

Luckily, those living near Iwakuni won't have to travel far for a handcrafted coffee experience, thanks to Marifu Coffee, a small cafe just a 10-minute walk from JR Iwakuni Station.

I first discovered Marifu Coffee completely by accident when I was still new to Iwakuni and unfamiliar with the area. While searching for a camera shop, I found myself distracted by the intoxicating smell of fresh coffee emanating from a building and decided to stop and enjoy a cup. After that first visit, I was hooked, and now Marifu is my go-to spot for brunch in Iwakuni.

Upon entering Marifu, guests are greeted by the pleasant smell of freshly brewed coffee and a smiling barista. Bar seating along the windows is perfect for solo diners, while ample table seating is available for larger groups. An easy-to-understand English menu with pictures of each dish makes ordering a breeze.

Many are completely different from most standard coffeehouses, as all the beans are roasted in-house and the cafe's baristas brew only a few cups of coffee at a time utilizing the pour-over method — a style of coffee brewing that's extremely popular with coffee aficionados. Fresh grounds are placed inside a cloth filter set over a cup or carafe while hot water is poured slowly over the grounds. This hand-brewed technique gives the coffee a bold flavor that never tastes burned.

In addition to their hand brewed coffee (420 yen, or about \$3.80), Marifu offers cappuccinos (600 yen), lattes (550 yen), iced coffees (420 yen) — and even a coffee float (580 yen) containing iced coffee served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Marifu is also unique in that the cafe features an extensive menu of food items perfect for breakfast and lunch, ranging from waffles to sandwiches.

The waffles at Marifu are a definite standout — crispy and golden on the outside with a warm, fluffy interior. The chocolate banana waffles (680 yen) are a work of art, topped with vanilla ice cream, a sliced banana, whipped cream, a cherry and a drizzle of chocolate syrup and caramel.

The waffles are delivered to your table before the ice cream has time to melt and pair perfectly with a cup of Marifu's signature coffee. While one waffle might not be enough food for those with a bigger appetite, it is delicious — and definitely something kids would like. Plain waffles are also available (550 yen) and can be paired with a cup of coffee as a part of a set meal for 620 yen.

For those without a sweet tooth, Marifu's more savory treats offer plenty to enjoy. The panini sandwich (680 yen) is filled with egg salad, ham, lettuce and tomato. The sandwich's toasted bread is perfectly thick and has just the right amount of chew, while the egg salad complements the other fillings nicely. The sandwich is also accompanied by a side salad and a slice of watermelon, which completes the meal.

During breakfast, other offerings include egg salad sandwiches (650 yen), scrambled eggs with salad and toast (580 yen), a mixed berry waffle topped with vanilla ice cream (680 yen), and friendly pork cutlet sandwich (880 yen) — more commonly known as "tonkatsu" in Japanese.

If you visit often, be sure to pick up Marifu's point card. Ten stamps will get you a free coffee.

House-roasted coffee, pristine golden waffles and a friendly staff make Marifu Coffee a must-visit for breakfast, brunch — or simply any time you crave a cup of perfectly brewed coffee.

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Twitter: @bolinger2004



PHOTOS BY JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

House-roasted coffee, pristine golden waffles and a friendly staff make Marifu Coffee a must-visit for brunch in Iwakuni.

MARIFU COFFEE

Location: 13-5, Marifumachi 6-Chome, Iwakuni, Yamaguchi 740-0018

Directions: Marifu Coffee is accessible at Iwakuni Station via the JR Gantoku Line and JR Sanyo Lines (10-minute walk). From MCAS Iwakuni, turn right on Route 188. Stay on Route 188 for roughly 2.2 km before turning left at the Mikasabashi Intersection, located near Iwakuni Station. Turn right at the third stop-

light and continue for about two blocks. Marifu Coffee is located just past the 7-Eleven convenience store.

Hours: Open daily, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., with last order at 6:30 p.m.

Prices: Coffee drinks start at 420 yen (about \$3.80), while waffles and other food items start at 550 yen.

Dress: Casual
Information: 0827-21-8721
— James Bolinger

FROM PAGE 32

Following cacao beans

Chocolate lovers should head for the hills above Kauai's east shore, where Lydgate raises cacao and offers three-hour "branch-to-bar" tours.

His small-scale operation near Kapaa, called Steelgrass Farm when we took the tour, has since been renamed Lydgate Farms.

Hawaii remains the only U.S. state where cacao can be reliably grown — and there was a real thrill in watching our guide slice open a bright yellow cacao pod to reveal the beans inside. We learned how chocolate came to be and how the sweet stuff gets made. Lydgate Farms beans are grown, fermented, dried and roasted on the island, then shipped to a chocolatier on Oahu for manufacture.

Earlier, the group tour covered other plants grown on Kauai, such as vanilla and black sapote, a persimmon-like fruit with pulp like chocolate pudding.

"Treat it like nature's jello shot," suggested our guide, a surfer from California, as she introduced rambutan fruits — lychee-like balls with translucent flesh and spiny red skins.

The morning ended with a chocolate taste test, including 10 varieties from Lydgate Farms and around the world.

The tour was too pricey and long. But the chocolate was

superb, the junglelike grounds were beautiful and the idea behind the farm was intriguing.

The cocoa-tree tours at Lydgate Farms are 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. It's \$95 for adults; kids 12 and younger are free. Online: lydgatefarms.com

Farmers markets bring you closer to the land

Farmers markets abound on Kauai and they're an easy and enjoyable way to nosh and stock up on local produce. You can peruse tables piled high with pineapples, coconuts, avocados and star fruit.

For \$5 at a Saturday market in Hanalei on the north shore, I bought two dozen rambutan. Then I struck up a conversation with Matthew Cummings, who learned how to drive from the seat of the tractor used in his family's 10-acre orchard.

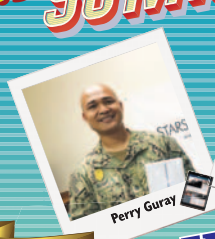
"I helped out a lot when I was a kid," Cummings said. "Kauai is a really good place to grow so many different fruits. We get a lot of sun and a lot of rain."

When he wants a snack, Cummings reaches for sourpuss fruits — spiky green ovals with creamy flesh that taste a bit like tangy bananas.

Another popular Saturday market, at Kauai Community College, features island cheeses, pies and jams.

One website with schedules is testingkauai.com/farmers-markets.

2018 SUMMER Giveaway



Prize Winners

STARS AND STRIPES congratulates the winners of our 2018 End of Summer giveaway promotion!

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BOSE
Sustained Loudspeaker Technology

Perry Guray, Sasebo Naval Base
Troy Heinrich, Camp Foster

Thanks to everyone who came out and participated.
For a complete list of winners, go to stripesrewards.com/winners.

WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS BY BONNIE JO MOUNT/The Washington Post

Jennifer Stanton, 39, of Orlando, Fla., top, swings a large ax while Blaise and Donna Bowen, also of Orlando, above, square off against each other at Bad Axe Throwing in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 4.

By MARISSA J. LANG
The Washington Post

Washingtonians looking to have a beer, unwind with friends and hurl hatchets at a wall will soon get their chance.

Competitive ax-throwing company Kraken Axes was awarded a liquor license late last month, becoming the first Washington, D.C., establishment to let patrons mix booze and sharp weaponry.

Two other venues plan to do the same. Kick Axe Throwing has also secured a liquor license — though it is not expected to open for business before spring 2019.

“The immediate reaction is, ‘You’re throwing axes? That sounds crazy!’” said Mario Zelaya, president and CEO of Bad Axe Throwing, which has a venue in northeast Washington. “And then when you introduce alcohol, people think you’re really nuts. ... But we haven’t had any injuries — unless you count paper cuts.”

In an attempt to warm city officials to the idea of alcohol in the ax-throwing range, the venues have

all vowed to follow safety protocols, including having trained coaches in each lane where axes are being thrown and separating the bar from the throwing zone.

Kick Axe serves liquor at its Brooklyn, N.Y., venue, while Bad Axe has a liquor license at a handful of its other U.S. locations.

Ax throwing, a sport typically found at lumberjack competitions and Renaissance festivals, involves chucking hatchets at wooden targets, and has taken off throughout the country over the past year.

It’s like bowling, experts like to say. But sharper.

Kraken Axes operates two Washington, D.C., locations. One is closed for renovation and will reopen in December, owner Steuart Martens said.

Martens said he plans to use the District as a test case for Kraken’s business plan before it decides to expand nationally. Already, several locations are set to open on the Eastern Seaboard: in Baltimore; Boston; Richmond, Va.; and parts of Florida.

But owners said if it fails there, it probably won’t stand a chance

anywhere else. Washingtonians, it turns out, seem to like more eccentric entertainment.

“You can do all the research and analysis you want on cities and demographics, but there’s this extra factor in places like D.C. and, honestly, we don’t know what it is,” said Zelaya, who owns two dozen venues across the United States and in Canada. “Washington has what we call the ‘ax-factor.’”

Most ax-throwing venues offer variations on a theme: Patrons are met by a coach or trainer who will go through safety protocols with first-timers and teach them how to throw. Most places call these trainers their ax masters or “ax-perts.”

At Kick Axe Throwing, owner and CEO Ginger Flesher-Sonnier said patrons are limited to beer, wine and malt beverages and will only be served three throughout the time they are throwing. Staff will be trained to recognize signs of drunkenness and are told to cut people off and ask them to leave the lane if they appear unable to throw safely.

D.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Board member James Short Jr., who represents Ward 7 under the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), quipped Flesher-Sonnier on Kick Axe’s safety features during her appearance before the group last year.

“The screening and the fencing along the side walls will be a minimum of 10 feet high. And within each lane will be the ax-pert and

they will never leave the lane or allow anybody into the lane unless they are invited in,” Flesher-Sonnier told him.

She added that axes are never allowed to be handed off between patrons. They must be placed into the stump before leaving, and the next group comes in and pulls them out of it, she said.

“So there are a bunch of safety measures that our liability insurance carrier is making us follow,” Flesher-Sonnier told the board.

Assuring District officials that the only injury she has seen suffered in an ax-throwing venue was when somebody in Canada dropped an ax on their foot and broke a toe helped Flesher-Sonnier go through the liquor-licensing process with relative ease.

When Kick Axe opens its doors next year, the venue will be able to start serving beer and wine right away.

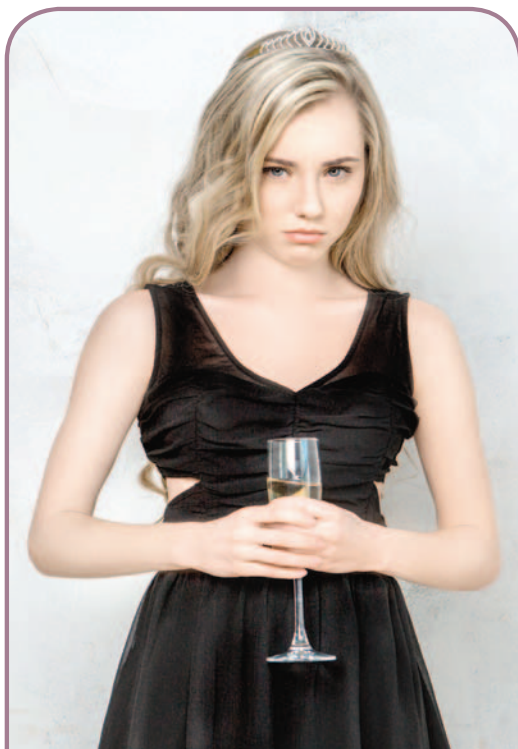
Bad Axe Throwing has not yet applied for its District liquor license, though Zelaya said he intends to do so. The company recently won licenses in Oklahoma City and Denver.

“I think some people think of us as these crazy Canadians bringing our axes down to the U.S. and throwing them around, and they’re like, ‘That’s so dangerous!’ But you know what? You guys carry guns, and I don’t know a single person in Canada who owns a gun,” Zelaya said. “Really, it’s not as crazy as it seems.”

‘Not as crazy as it seems’

Ax-throwing venues in D.C. to start serving alcohol

WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



To have, hold & spend

Wedding party
duties, expectations
have reached
epic proportions

By ANNA ORSO/The Philadelphia Inquirer

Courtney Duffy made national news this summer when she begged JetBlue to help her cancel a cross-country flight to be in a friend's wedding, telling the world the bride had asked her to "relinquish" her bridesmaid duties.

A screenshot of the bride's passive-aggressive email, in which she indicated "the whirlwind nature of what your travel has become just won't work with the duties as a party member," went viral and sparked a conversation: In this day and age, what are those duties?

Wedding planners and those who have studied the wedding industrial complex say the duties and expectations have reached epic proportions. Gone are the days where a night out on the town was sufficient for a bachelorette party — instead, brides want four-day trips to Nashville, and some grooms think hiking in Colombia is a good way to celebrate their impending nuptials.

There are more events leading up to the Big Day, like elaborate proposals, engagement parties, multiple bridal showers, destination bachelorette parties and dress-shopping outings, and they're often longer than they were in the past. And businesses are capitalizing, meaning there's more to pay for, from custom bridal shower Snapchat filters to matching bachelorette weekend T-shirts with phrases like "Wife of the Party" and "On Cloud Wine" in sparkly script.

"The pre-wedding stuff has just gotten so spectacular and so expensive," said Laura Essig, a professor of gender, sexuality and feminist studies at Middlebury College. "It's so brilliant, because it's just more and more stuff to sell, and more and more stuff to buy. That's the marriage of capitalism and romance."

While there were always costs associated with being a part of a family member's or close friend's wedding, those obligations have only increased, particularly as Americans are waiting to get married. The median age of a first marriage for women is 27 and for men, 29, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In 1960, it was 20 for women and 22 for men. That means that the betrothed and the attendants have more money — and higher expectations.

Alyssa Longobucco, an editor at wedding planning website the Knot, said that according to a survey the site conducted in the last year, the average member of a wedding party spent \$1,430 on the entire wedding experience, a figure that includes travel and accommodations for each event, gifts, attire and accessories. When you've got three close friends getting married in the same year, you're well on your way to spending the equivalent of a down payment on a car.

"It's a pretty steep number, and it is a little jarring," she said, "(but) the whole millennial outlook is paying for experiences, and we're finding a lot of people don't mind. The thought process is: She will do it for me."

Or maybe they do mind. More than a dozen people who were recently in extravagant weddings declined to be interviewed for this story — they didn't want to publicly shame their close friends.

Plenty of people, though, are willing to call them out on Facebook in what have been dubbed "wedding shaming groups." The pages gained mainstream traction in August after a story from one of the groups — about a bride who canceled her wedding after her guests refused to fund it — went viral.

Members of wedding parties frequently use the groups to post about their nameless friends' expectations.

"Is it me, am I showing my age, or are bridesmaids being expected to pay way too much?" one woman posted recently in a private group. "A coworker, who I know makes way less than I do, had to pay a total of \$1,200 as a member of a wedding party ... In addition to paying for the dress, required tanning sessions, nails, makeup, the bridal party was told they had to pay for a wine tasting 'bridal shower' which cost \$600 per bridesmaid for wines selected by the mother of the bride."

The post garnered hundreds of comments, including: "I spent \$5,000 to be in my best friend's wedding ... Custom made gowns from India, three nights at a five-star luxury hotel, bachelorette week in Vegas ... Just the beginning."

Christiane Lehman, owner of Philadelphia-based Truly You Events, blamed bachelor and bachelorette parties for driving up costs for wedding party members.

Kelly Gallagher, a Philadelphia-based event planner, put it more bluntly.

"More and more, what we're seeing is there's a lot of demand to do different stuff so that, I hate to say it, but so that their Instagram makes people jealous."

"More and more, what we're seeing is there's a lot of demand to do different stuff so that, I hate to say it," she said, "but so that their Instagram makes people jealous." For the masses, it's a three- or four-day trip to popular hot spots like New Orleans, Vegas, Miami, Austin or Nashville, said Gallagher, director of marketing for Bach Party Travel, a new group focused specifically on planning bachelor and bachelorette parties.

It's the men who are routinely spending more, shelling out to party in Ibiza, drink at Oktoberfest in Munich, or go whitewater rafting in Central America, Gallagher said. The latest destination hot spot for the guys is Colombia. "You always hear about millennials wanting experiences over things," she said, "so this is a huge market, not just for millennials, but people getting married that are older than want to travel and almost use this as an excuse to travel with their friends."

Longobucco said expectations vary, but generally, wedding party members should expect to attend a shower event, the bachelor or bachelorette party, the rehearsal dinner and the wedding itself. She recommends brides and grooms have a frank discussion with their close family and friends about being in the wedding party before the person accepts. Outline hopes and expectations, and ensure the friends feel comfortable disclosing financial constraints. And, she said, if that person can't afford it, involve them in the Big Day another way, perhaps through being an usher or a reader at the ceremony.

As some engaged millennials shell out thousands to be a part of the same celebrations, there's been a sense among others that simplification is the way to go. They respond to the razzle-dazzle by doing the opposite: being uber-conscious of managing their expectations to not drain their friends' bank accounts, or even eliminating bridal parties altogether.

Essig, whose book "Love, Inc.: Dating Apps, the Big White Wedding, and Chasing the Happily Everafter" drops in February, said fewer people are getting married in general, many of them resisting "the capitalist pull" of the wedding industry or being unable to afford it altogether. She guesses that this resistance will only increase.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

ENTRENCHED IN SUCCESS

Coming off multiplatinum glory of 'Blurryface,' Twenty One Pilots score again

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

It's going to be hard for Twenty One Pilots to top the success of their last album. Every tune on "Blurryface" went gold, platinum or, in some cases, multiplatinum — the first album to do so in history. But if anyone's going to do better, it's these guys from Ohio.

"Trench," the 14-track, fifth album from vocalist Tyler Joseph and drummer Josh Dun (as well as songwriting help from Paul Meany), is every bit as good as "Blurryface," continuing the band's genre-bending trademark of tackling various styles and showcasing

a knack for songwriting.

The band comes fast out of the gate with the throbbing bass line of "Jumpsuit" with insecurity in the lyrics ("I can't believe how much I hate / Pressures of a new place roll my way"). Then it's on to Dun's kinetic drumming on "Levitate," a blissed-out and terrific "Morph" and The Killers-like, falsetto-fueled "My Blood." Further ahead, there's the reggae-tinged "Nico and the Niners," the '80s-sounding "The Hype" and the complex, constantly shifting "Bandito."

We reach peak Twenty One Pilots on "Pet Cheetah," an exhilarating and daffy tune that



Twenty One Pilots

Trench (Fueled By Ramen)

namechecks Jason Statham as it mixes techno, rap and rock, along with a healthy dose of reggae and house. No one out there makes music as thrilling as this.

"Trench" is a more low-key album — "Cut My Lip" and "Neon Gravestones" are slow burners — and Joseph and Dun show maturity in not overworking songs, too. The last track, "Leave the City" is a piano-driven gem with understated drumming and ghostly vocals.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Pilots record without opaque lyrics that connect the songs — "jumpsuit" and "neon" — and the album to a larger fantasy

narrative that has spooled out over several albums and onto websites. We'll leave all those clues — references to Dema and the bishops and Nicolas Boutbaki — to the fans on Reddit.

"Trench" also finds Joseph in a confident mood, lyric-wise, even mocking songwriting itself. "Chorus, verse, chorus, verse / Now here comes the eight," he sings on "Levitate." On "Smithereens," he croons: "For you, I'd go write a slick song just to show you the world."

Well, he's certainly done that. He's made another album full of them.



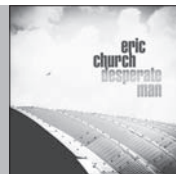
Twenty One Pilots' Josh Dunn, left, and Tyler Joseph

Courtesy of Fueled by Ramen

WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS



JOHN PEETS/Courtesy of Essential Broadcast Media

**Eric Church**Desperate Man
(EMI Nashville)

Eric Church's new album, "Desperate Man," is the rarest of country records, one that reflects and comments on the present.

He opens with the stunning parable "The Snake," a dark commentary about the current state of America's two-party political system, where Church snarls, "Rattlesnake, copperhead, either one of them, kill you dead / We stay hungry, they get fed ... And the whole world's burning down."

When he sings "I've learned that the monsters ain't the ones beneath the bed" in "Monsters," Church might be referring to the shooter who killed 58 and injured more than 800 a year ago at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas, where he was one of the headliners. But he definitely is referring to the feeling that sometimes the monsters win and that his response is the cautious hope of "I keep my faith intact and make sure my prayers are said."

It's a testament to Church's skill as a songwriter and a singer that "Desperate Man" doesn't sugarcoat anything, but still maintains a positive outlook, even if, as he does in "Drowning Man," all he can do is offer an escape. And in "Solid," Church praises resilience, by declaring, "I might look like a mess to you, but I'm solid."

He manages this difficult balancing act by drawing on more soul and blues than he has in the past, calling to mind the Allman Brothers Band, as much as the new country traditionalists like Chris Stapleton and Sturgill Simpson. The good-time soul groove of "Hanging Around" even draws out an unexpectedly playful vocal performance from Church, while the wistful "Hippie Radio" is a gorgeous nostalgic trip through "Carry on My Wayward Son," Billy Idol and even a nod to Harry Chapin.

And the world Church conjures in the sweet, blues-tinged "Heart Like a Wheel" or "Jukebox and a Bar" offers proof that the monsters don't always win.

— Glenn Gamboa
Newsday

'A Star Is Born' soundtrack is a five-star marvel

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

The soundtrack to "A Star Is Born" is no slim thing, thank goodness. It contains 34 tracks, mostly due to the inclusion of brief snatches of songs, dialogues or interludes. It will put fans back into the film in a visceral way. Haven't seen it yet? With this album, you might not need to.

The latest film incarnation of the doomed love affair between two singer-songwriters — one on the way up, the other down — has plenty of buzz thanks to its stars, Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper. The soundtrack is proof that it deserves the attention.

From bluesy rock to country to bubble gum pop, the 19 original songs are varied and addictive. We knew Lady Gaga was capable of great things, but Cooper's musicality is a wonder. We often make fun of actors who long to be rock stars, but Cooper shows real skill in front of the microphone.

The soundtrack is chronological and, of course, includes Gaga's performance of Edith Piaf's classic "La Vie En Rose," her star turn moment when Cooper's character discovers her in a cabaret. It naturally has the huge tearful finale, "I'll Never Love Again" — it has an extended cut of that as well, if you have enough hankies at home.

**Various Artists**

A Star Is Born — Original Motion Picture Soundtrack
(Interscope Records)

But a film about the power of music needs to have lots of it and the soundtrack includes virtually every note heard onscreen, including blistering guitar instrumentals ("Out of Time"), duets (including the bluesy "Alibi," the country "Music to My Eyes" and the soft rocker "I Don't Know What Love Is"), and even dialogue about music (the minute-long "Twelve Notes" speech delivered by Sam Elliott).

In many ways, the film's trajectory can be boiled down to its first breakout hit, "Shallow," co-written by Mark Ronson. It starts in a folksy vein with Cooper alone, then becomes a duet with Cooper and Gaga before ending



We knew Lady Gaga, right, had amazing pipes, but Bradley Cooper's singing and musicality are revelations in "A Star Is Born."

CLAY ENOS, WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

with her taking it over, belting out the lyrics in a glam-rock style. (Gaga first singing it to Cooper in a parking lot is nicely included on the CD in an earlier snippet.) Like that song, the whole soundtrack starts with Cooper's blues and rock and ends with Gaga going full Gaga. Other highlights include the searing rock cut "Black Eyes," the country ballad "Always Remember Us This Way," the

burning "Diggin' My Grave," the Britney Spears-ish "Hair Body Face," the moody club banger "Heal Me" and the simple, beautiful "Too Far Gone."

In addition to Cooper and Gaga, who co-wrote most of the tunes, some other names jump out on the album, including Lukas Nelson (son of Willie Nelson), who is credited with co-writing a slew of songs for both stars. Diane Warren co-wrote

"Why Did You Do That?" while frequent Gaga collaborator DJ White Shadow co-wrote and co-produced six of her new songs.

And for those of you with not enough Alec Baldwin in your lives, rejoice — he's there, in a tiny audio excerpt as a "Saturday Night Live" host. There's a good chance he could win a Grammy for uttering four words. There's no way this album won't be in contention.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

A portrait of COURAGE and PURPOSE

'The Fighters' offers uncommonly close look at America's post-Sept. 11 troops

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Veterans on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill earlier this decade often complained that fellow college students frequently confronted them with the same grim question: "Have you ever killed anyone?"

The question reduced military service to a single dimension, a thing of morbid curiosity, and stymied any discussion of what it meant to have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. For many, it illustrated how little the American public understood about those the country sent to war.

In his new book, "The Fighters: Americans in Combat in Afghanistan and Iraq," C.J. Chivers pulls back the curtain on some of the more than 2.7 million Americans who served the wars since

Sept. 11, 2001. Its title makes plural the name of his Pulitzer Prize-winning 2016 magazine profile of a Marine's post-war struggle in an Illinois college town, and it exhibits similar deep reporting and sensitive storytelling.

A Marine Corps infantry veteran, Chivers offers detailed chronicles of the journeys endured by those in the lower and middle ranks.

It follows six main characters, some of whom took part in the early days of the wars and returned when they metastasized into counterinsurgencies, and some who joined as idealistic recruits with the wars already well underway.

Chivers reported on broader aspects of these stories as a New York Times war correspondent, but here he fleshes out the troops' personal experiences with details gleaned from interviews, personal correspondence and other materials. The preface offers a forceful critique of the wars and how those leading them have failed their subordinates and the public.

In its opening scene, Marine grunts in Afghanistan's Helmand province

tally civilian casualties that they hadn't caused but were forced to clean up. The Corps was eager to forget the incident, though the Marines themselves would not.

"Many of them wanted then, and still want now, to connect their battlefield service to something greater than a memory reel of gunfights, explosions and grievous wounds," Chivers writes. "They wanted to understand accidental killings as isolated mistakes in a campaign characterized by sound strategy, moral authority, and lasting success. They didn't get this, at least not all of it."

During the 2010 campaign to seize the Taliban stronghold of Marjah, a dozen unarmed civilians had been killed by a pair of U.S. artillery rocket strikes. None of the Marines on the ground had called them in. Chivers long pursued the investigation report into the incident, a footnote tells us, but the Corps said it could not find a copy.

It's an event Chivers witnessed while embedded, as are several other moments he describes. He returns to Marjah later in the book with one of his main subjects, a Marine platoon leader, for a battle that promised to turn the tide of the war but in the end did not. Marjah would be seized but would eventually fall back into Taliban hands.

The five other main characters are a strike fighter pilot, a Green Beret, a combat medic, a scout helicopter pilot and an enlisted grunt. Filling out much of the rest of the cast are combat troops or those who closely supported them. Many are the grunts who don't make America's foreign policy but are "stuck in" as Chivers puts it.

The broad criticism of policy and leadership failures gives way to stories mostly focused on events and concerns on a personal scale — a night ambush, an insurgent rocket attack, a sniper's bullet, a perilous roadways.

When they do consider the bigger picture, the troops here are often perplexed by the strategy or their part in it. Robert Soto, a specialist serving in Afghanistan's deadly Korengal Valley in 2009, settles on one way to make sense of it.

"We're here because we're here," he decides. "If nothing else, the soldiers could fight for one another. That was something worth fighting for, and with a



tangible purpose and a defined end."

We might wonder if it wasn't always so for those on the front lines.

There are heartbreaking coincidences and bitter ironies — a deviation from routine proves fatal, a moment of levity becomes shame. There's also plenty of faith, honor and courage in the face of war's hazards and horrors, often in tense or exhilarating scenes.

Chivers' style is spare and understated, making the occasional flourish that much more effective, as when he describes a trio of schoolgirls riding bicycles down a residential street in Powder Springs, Ga., where Dustin Kirby, a once-handsome but now scarred Navy hospital corpsman back from war, is disheveled and burning brush on the family property: "Like a school of fish, they abruptly turned and crossed the opposite side of the street, giving him wide berth."

Through his focus on the particular, these stories begin to feel universal, representing the wars' unfathomable costs to so many Americans. These fighters have their foibles, but they are largely competent, self-sacrificing and seeking to do what's right for their fellow troops. Fatal errors seem to originate from entities unseen or unknown, often at higher echelons, baffling those in harm's way. Chivers is unapologetic in his ap-

C.J. Chivers was awarded the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing for his New York Times Magazine story "The Fighter." His new book, "The Fighters," was released in August.

MICK CHIVERS/Courtesy of Simon & Schuster

proach — and his focus on the lowly combatant is a cherished tradition that partly echoes the argument for Stars and Stripes' existence. But I couldn't help feeling a voice or two from higher up might have rounded out the book.

Still, senior officials and their public affairs staffs have no shortage of chances to speak. What Chivers gives us in "The Fighters" is an uncommonly close look at the personal stories that frequently go untold.

No small part of Chivers' effort was informed by time he spent embedded alongside his subjects in the fight, a level of media access that has become exceedingly rare in recent years.

As a generation with no memory of a time before 9/11 comes of age to fight in Afghanistan, I can't help wondering how much more of a mystery their service will be with media embeds brief and infrequent, and America's attention turned elsewhere.

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WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

"Hotel Artemis": A shining example of how it is not the amount of money spent to make a movie, but how the budget is being spent. Director/writer Drew Pearce has managed to create a high-energy, gritty-looking and prophetically scary tale set in the near future that comes across as big as any summer blockbuster but offers far more bang for the bucks in the writing, visuals and acting. "Hotel Artemis" is filled with standout performances topped by an Oscar-worthy effort by Jodie Foster, who in recent years has been more content to work behind the cameras. She's not stopped acting, but will only take on roles that intrigue her, as in the case of The Nurse.



GLOBAL ROAD ENTERTAINMENT/AP

From left: Jeff Goldblum, Zachary Quinto and Jodie Foster star in "Hotel Artemis." The movie is now available on DVD.

"Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation": The animated feature picks up with the getaway destination for creatures doing booming business. Things are going so well they need a break, and the group books passage on the first monster cruise that will take them from the Bermuda Triangle to the found city of Atlantis. Dracula falls in love again, but the object of his affection is the last in the long line of Van Helsing's who have made it their life's work to kill Dracula. "Hotel Transylvania 3" doesn't suck. It is a visual splendor from the fun way the creatures are portrayed to the pacing of the action. Keeping Gendy Tartakovsky as the director of all three films creates a fluid sense of comedy and look.

"Skyscraper": The 21st century attempt to repeat the kind of yippee-ki-yay action that made "Die Hard" so exciting features Dwayne Johnson running, jumping, climbing and lifting heavy objects. To be honest, a workout video would have been just as interesting. "Skyscraper" ends up being a poor man's "Die Hard" because it is still entertaining on a familiar level, especially if all you want is some mindless entertainment.

"Prayer Before Dawn": This is one of the most difficult films in recent years to watch. Jean-Stephane Sauvaire's decision to film the movie in a real prison using actual prisoners as the supporting cast to Joe Cole takes the movie to the edge of being a documentary. The horror of what boxer Bill Moore went through in a Thailand prison can be seen without filter because the locations aren't Hollywood sets but real-world venues caked in blood, sweat and more blood.

Also new on DVD on Oct. 9: **"Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot":** Man in rehab learns he is a gift for drawing edgy, irreverent newspaper cartoons that develop an international following.

"Eighth Grade": Thirteen-year-old Kayla (Elsie Fisher) makes her way through the last week of middle school.

"Dark Money": Montana journalist works to expose the impact of the the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision.

"The 100: Season Five": Season five of The CW network series has the post-apocalyptic survivors trying to establish a new home and protect the future generations.

"House on Haunted Hill": Murder is a way of life in this 1999 feature that is a remake of William Castle's 1959 cult classic.

—Rick Bentley/Tribune Content Agency



The CW

From left: Molly Ringwald is Mary Andrews, KJ Apa is Archie and Robin Givens is Sierra McCoy on "Riverdale," which returns to AFN-Pulse on Oct. 14. Givens got her start back in the 1980s on the comedy series "Head of the Class."

A grown-up perspective

Robin Givens happy to bring adult element to 'Riverdale'

BY RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

The third season of the comic book-inspired "Riverdale," returning on AFN-Pulse on Oct. 14, again follows a different, dark and twisted version of Archie Andrews and the gang than the one introduced in 1941 with Pep Comics. The CW production is a far cry from the malt shop days of the original comics, as it is filled with murder, sex, gangs, blackmail and all the other evils that tend to pop up in nighttime soap operas.

What makes the wicked ways different is most of the darker moments happen to Riverdale teens Archie (KJ Apa), Betty (Lili Reinhart), Jughead (Cole Sprouse) and Veronica (Camila Mendes). But the parents of the teens have had to face their own major problems. It's been up to the veteran actors who play the parents — Robin Givens, Marisol Nichols, Madchen Amick, Nathalie Bolt, Martin Cummins, Skeet Ulrich, Luke Perry, Mark Consuelos and Lochlyn Munro — to deal with the adult worries and woes of their characters.

"Riverdale" deals with more teen angst than "Dawson's Creek" and "The O.C.," but executive producer Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa makes it clear the show works because of the parents.

"Probably the single biggest challenge for 'Riverdale' is that the show is a show about a town. Even from the beginning, it was important that we not call the show 'Archie,' which is what the comic book has been called for 80 years," Aguirre-Sacasa says. "So we named the show 'Riverdale.' I always say that the show wouldn't work without the parents because of that shared history."

"When scripts come out and you ask the grown-ups, 'Is there ever something that they say no to or they don't want to do?' I have to say all I get is enthusiasm and fearlessness from this group."

Givens is definitely excited about her role on the series, playing Riverdale mayor Sierra McCoy and mother to Josie McCoy (Ashleigh Murray) of Josie and the Pussycats fame. The 53-year-old New York native was in her early 20s when she became a star through the network comedy "Head of the Class."

"I think one of the most interesting times I've had on the set, we were waiting, and it was myself and Luke (Perry) and Mari (Nichols) sitting around. And you are waiting for lighting. There's

“I think one of the most interesting times I've had on the set, we were waiting, and it was myself and Luke (Perry) and Mari (Nichols). ... And we were talking, and we were showing pictures of our kids on our phones, and we were looking around, and we were saying, we kind of said, 'How did this happen? Remember? Like, how did this happen? We were them. It was an interesting moment.”

one day you realize that you are asking, 'Did you do your homework?' and you are having to look up at them."

"Riverdale" has only been around for two seasons, but a lot has happened. The one big mainstay of soap operas that has not occurred so far is a wedding episode. That could change this year with Givens' character. It's that kind of potential story that makes Givens so happy she joined the madness that is "Riverdale." That the team thinks of big storylines for the veteran actors is proof to Givens that the series isn't just about teens.

"Part of what I think is the brilliance of the show is that I grew up with Archie Comics. (But) there are a lot of kids who stop me in the airport that don't even know about it," Givens says. "People my age reminisce about this time, and then there is a new audience just meeting these characters for the first time."

Those who have fond memories of the character often will decide they are more like Betty or Veronica. Givens admits that while growing up she would have said Betty, but as she got older, a part of her grew into a Veronica.

Givens and the rest of the adults will be back in the thick of things in Riverdale this season. The third season begins with deliberations in the murder trial of Archie. Betty is forced to deal with her problems head-on after a heated confrontation with Alice, and Polly (Tiera Skovbye) brings up some dark secrets

she's kept hidden. Veronica pleads with her father to step in and help Archie before a verdict is announced.

a major setup," Givens says. "And we were talking, and we were showing pictures of our kids on our phones, and we were looking around, and we were saying, we kind of said, 'How did this happen? Remember? Like, how did this happen? We were them. It was an interesting moment."

"What is most interesting is that most of us are parents too, and you kind of judge time by your kids. You feel the same, but

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Going the distance

BY AMBY BURFOOT
Special to The Washington Post

Choosing the right running shoe has never been easy. There are so many shoe companies and so many models, each touting various high-tech features. How is a buyer supposed to make the smartest choice? Now is the season to figure it out.



With cross-country in full swing and the year's most popular marathons just weeks away, lots of runners are looking for new footwear. Fortunately — almost amazingly — many experts believe shoe-buying is getting simpler. You don't need a computer algorithm. You'll probably fare best by trusting your sense of feel.

Forget minimalist styles

A few years ago, "minimalist shoes," designed to mimic barefoot running, were all the rage. The theory might have been good, but the results weren't. "To borrow from Winston Churchill, never has so much damage been done to so many by such little shoes," Washington podiatrist Stephen Pribut says. In particular, many runners suffered forefoot pains and sometimes stress fractures because of the lack of cushioning. Others complained of calf strains and Achilles tendinitis.

A backlash followed quickly, but so did a new approach among shoe companies. Although they brought back thick cushioning, they also abandoned bulky devices intended to increase motion control. "As a sort of minimalist legacy, many manufacturers stripped unnecessary extra bits out of their shoes, making them lighter and simpler," notes Jeff Dengate, shoe expert and runner-in-chief at Runner's World magazine.

So long, 'wet test'

Of course, super-cushioning, like lack of cushioning, can't eliminate all running injuries. So, neither a maximalist nor

minimalist design is the key to finding a good running shoe.

Nor, it turns out, is the shape of your foot, despite the fact that consumers have been advised for decades to buy shoes based on the height of their arches. This is determined, not so scientifically, by the "wet test," which involves stepping into a pan of water and then onto a sheet of paper to create a footprint. If you have flat feet, your feet are assumed to "overpronate," or roll inward, and you're supposed to buy rigid shoes. If you have high arches, you're supposed to buy a shoe with extra cushioning and support.

But when Marine Corps medical staff conducted a randomized, controlled trial of this method, they concluded that using the wet test to select running shoes "had little influence on injuries."

Around the same time, biomechanics specialists also changed their assessment of pronation, previously blamed for many injuries. In his book "Biomechanics of Sport Shoes," veteran Canadian biomechanics researcher Benno Nigg explains that pronation is an entirely normal phenomenon. In fact, it's the way humans are designed to walk and run. Excessive, harmful overpronation is rare, Nigg says. A 2014 study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine confirmed his position by following 927 novice runners for a year and finding that the pronators had, if anything, fewer injuries than non-pronators.

"The foot is going to move the way it prefers to move, regardless of the shoe," says Clearwater, Fla., running podiatrist Brian Fuller, author of "The Runner's Guide to Healthy Feet and Ankles."

This means runners who are used to buying shoes based on the height of their arches or the advice of salesmen who have watched them run across the store to gauge their pronation tendency need a new strategy.

Instead, do this

That new strategy? Try on lots of shoes, including brands and models you might not have considered in the past. Nigg proposes that the best running shoes are the ones that feel best when you lace them up and give them a spin. "Comfort is hard to quantify," he acknowledges in his book, "but everyone knows it when they feel it. And comfort is associated with performance, injuries, muscle activity and other biomechanical, physiological and/or psychological factors."

Although some factors have changed, many essential shoe-selection tips remain the same. The following list comes from the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and the experts interviewed for this article. Regard the tips as tried-and-true essentials.

■ Buy at a store. You might save \$10 to \$20 online, but the in-store fitting process is so central to a running-shoe purchase that you can't put a price on it.

■ Try on shoes in the late afternoon or early evening, because your feet swell during the day (and when you run).

■ Wear the same wicking socks you wear while running. Also wear any regularly used shoe inserts or orthotics.

■ Pay careful attention to both feet: They're slightly different sizes, move differently and receive different amounts of force.

■ Avoid shoes that are too short. Select a pair with a finger's width of space between your toes and the front of the shoes.

■ Jog around in the store or on a nearby sidewalk. You can't judge running shoes by walking.

■ Buy the simplest, least gimmicky shoe that feels good and works well. That doesn't mean the lightest or most minimalist, but it does mean avoiding excessive weight and unnecessary doodads. Also, there's no evidence that expensive shoes are better for you.

How do you know you've found the right shoes? Here's how Jonathan Beverly puts it, based on his decade-plus as the head shoe tester at Running Times magazine and research he did for his book, "Your Best Stride." "With the right shoes, you land where you're supposed to land, the shoes bend where they're supposed to bend, the cushioning feels good without slowing your stride, the support is neither too much nor too little, and you push off smoothly and strongly."

You don't find a shoe like this in 60 seconds or less. Fuller says runners should sample five or six pairs before making a final choice. Dengate agrees. "If you try on several different pairs of shoes," he says, "you might be surprised to discover a new shoe that you'll love."

Once you've fallen in love, break in your purchase gradually; even if the shoes feel great at the store, you should never race in a new pair. Finally, keep track of your miles run in the shoes. When you reach 300 to 500 miles, start searching for your next pair. It's better to buy sooner than to risk injury, time off and potentially expensive medical visits.

WEEKEND: FAMILY

Beyond 'no means no'

Talking to teenage boys about sexual consent

BY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT
The Washington Post

A mile east from the U.S. Capitol, on the eve of the hearing that would transform a nation, 17-year-old Hollis Howe listened to his mother talk about sexual assault.

Holly Howe, 45, told him about a young patient who recently came into the emergency room where she works as a nurse. The woman had been found outside her apartment door, wearing a dress but no underwear, recalling nothing from the night. Hours later, after sobering up, "she looks at me and she goes, I think something happened," Howe recalled to her son and husband, Gerred Howe, at the dinner table.

"Do not ever, ever think that because you're both drinking and you both think that it's consensual, that it's necessarily okay," Holly Howe told her son.

"Because what if she wakes up and decides that it wasn't consensual?" replied Hollis, a senior at all-boys St. Anselm's Abbey School in Washington.

"Exactly," his mother nodded. Hollis has heard these stories time and time again from his parents, perhaps more than the typical high school boy. The Howes have drilled into his brain the importance of consent, and he knows a foreign concept when they were teenagers. They talk openly about sex, and teach him to never combine it with alcohol.

In the age of #MeToo, and in the wake of the Brett Kavanaugh hearings, parents across the country have been rife with the anxieties of raising teenage boys to understand consent. How does a parent bring clarity to an issue that is too complex even for the country's political leaders to navigate? How can a mother or father prevent their teenage son from someday being accused of sexual assault?

Perhaps nowhere are these worries more palpable than in the homes of students in Washington's all-male private preparatory schools, the backdrop to Christine Ford's sexual assault allegation against Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan. Some parents from these schools feel that their sons are being unfairly stereotyped as misogynistic, privileged party boys. They've taken to forcefully defending their sons, who they say are raised in a culture of respect, dignity and brotherhood.

Indeed, sexual assault takes place in schools all over the country, public and private, single-gender or co-ed.

But it's especially important that parents of students from all-boys schools are having these conversations at home, experts in adolescent development say. One 2013 study from Arizona State University found that single-gender schools reinforce and increase gender stereotypes.



EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/For The Washington Post

Gerred Howe and Holly Howe talk with their son Hollis, 17, in their Washington, D.C., home about navigating sexual consent with girls.

Another study in 2011 found that cross-gender friendships decrease aggression.

"The only thing they're exposed to is the traditional masculine culture," said Campbell Leaper, a developmental and social psychologist at the University of California at Santa Cruz. "If you are separating the boys and the girls, it's all the less likely that the boys know how to relate to the girls."

If boys and girls only socialize at parties on the weekends, and if there's drinking involved, Leaper said, "that's just a prescription for disaster."

Consent education

Teaching consent to teenagers is still a relatively new concept. In previous decades, conversations about the "birds and the bees" focused on abstinence or, at most, using protection. In recent years, consent has gradually made its way into public school sex education curriculum, but it's still rare. Only 24 states and the District of Columbia require sex education in public schools, and fewer than a dozen states mention the terms "healthy relationships," "sexual assault" or "consent" in their sex education programs, according to a report in May by the liberal Center for American Progress.

Three of those states, Maryland, Rhode Island and Missouri, passed legislation this year mandating consent education, propelled by the #MeToo movement. The extent to which these lessons are taught in private schools is less clear. Some students in Catholic all-boys prep schools said they primarily learned about sex in religion classes.

Similar gaps persist in conversations about sex between parents and their sons. Many adults still don't have the framework for teaching

consent, said Andrew Smiler, a licensed psychologist who specializes in masculinity. Talks about consent tend to be overly simplistic, focusing on "no means no." "At the nut and bolts level, what does that mean?" Smiler said.

Technology makes the landscape of teenage sex even more confusing for parents, said Rosalind Wiseman, co-founder of Cultures of Dignity, which provides training, speeches and curriculum on the physical and emotional well-being of young people. What kinds of photos are okay to post on Snapchat?

And the way parents talk about sex often varies depending on whether they're talking to a son or a daughter, Cultures of Dignity Co-Founder Charlie Kuhn points out. For teenage girls, parents are more likely to explain in detail the need to be careful at parties, to avoid walking on dark streets, to stay with close friends.

"Part of the difference comes from, we have bought into this stereotype that boys are inherently promiscuous and are not into relationships," said Smiler. "Then really the only thing you need to tell them is to be safe. Because what more would they need to know?"

For Vince and Kathy Mathis, whose 16-year-old son Ryan attends Georgetown Prep in Maryland, their Baptist faith informs the way they talk about sex as a family. The parents teach their two children that the decision to have sex is serious, and that it's best to wait until they're married.

"They usually say, 'don't be in such a rush so early,'" said Ryan, who attends Georgetown Prep and is currently dating a girl from Holton-Arms, the Maryland high school attended by Christine Blasey Ford. "Be a kid right now and worry about those kinds of things later."

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Past horrors that no longer scare kids

Having grown up when kids roamed freely while parents smoked Salens, wore belted vests, ate pimento cheese and adjusted console televisions, my upbringing was undoubtedly different than my children's. Without a 24/7 supply of internet information, my hopes, dreams and fears were based on my imagination, influenced by what others told me and what I saw in movies, television and comic books.

Ask my kids what scares them, and they'd tell you ghosts, zombies, basement creepies, serial killers and shopping mall Santas. Pretty standard. But I feared a lot more as a child, including:

Quicksand. In the 20th century, we believed that while poking around in the woods we might inadvertently sink into a lethal pit of quicksand and meet an agonizing death. Why? Because this happened to actors in just about every television series and movie of our time, including "The Incredible Hulk," "The Six Million Dollar Man," "Scooby Doo," "Indiana Jones," "Johnny Quest" and "Gilligan's Island."

Razor blades in Halloween treats. Before the advent of economical "fun sized" candies, some neighbors weren't willing to shell out for full-sized Zagnuts, so they handed out more economical but boring fruit — the perfect hiding place for razor blades, according to our parents. Apparently, the razor blade threat is an urban myth and the real danger was trick-or-treaters coming back to toilet paper the houses of the fruit-giving cheapskates.

Hitchhikers. Hitchhiking used to be a relatively safe mode of transportation, but disturbing stories circulated at summer camp and slumber parties about murderous hitchhikers. I never saw "Texas Chainsaw Massacre," and my brother-in-law made no mention of hitchhiking as a kid, but for years, but hitchhikers were creepy nonetheless.

Stepping in poo. When I grew up, it was everywhere. People let their dogs roam just like the kids. No one picked up dog poo, except big brothers who speared it with sticks to chase little sisters. (Trust me. There were no signs with bag dispensers reading "Pick up after your pet!" Dog poo was a fact of life, and stepping in it was a real danger. Which leads me to the next terror.

Getting worms. "Put on your flip flops or you'll get worms!" my mother used to bellow between puffs of her Tareyton 100. Apparently, people weren't as conscientious about vet care back then, so getting worms was a real possibility for barefoot kids. When I didn't heed her warnings, I was punished with a few bee stings, but never got worms. Aside from the revolting thought of poo squishing between my toes, the fear of parasites feeding on my innards had me steering clear of piles.

Any disease requiring a large brace, an iron lung, shock treatments or a lobotomy. Sure, needles aren't fun. But I'd take a shot in the arm any day to the diseases that we faced as kids. Vaccinations were new, so we heard real cases of polio, mumps, measles and chicken pox, and the rumors of treatment plus, we all knew a kid at school who wore a humongous contraption to brace his legs or spine.

Getting chopped up in an outdoor motor, locked in an abandoned refrigerator or having an arm ripped off by a passing car. Although we never knew people who had suffered these fates, grown ups told us that, if we weren't careful, these things might happen. We couldn't Google to fact check their claims and accepted them as fact.

People with tattoos. Today, it's normal to see a man pushing a stroller with roses tattooed around her bicep. But in my day, with the exception of military men, it was assumed that people with tattoos had suffered some misfortune in life that compelled them to become dangerous outcasts, probably carrying switchblades.

Being a kid used to be pretty scary. But nowadays, children can safely munch their fruit-sized candy bars and dream of their first (or second) tattoo, knowing that helicopter parents, pharmaceuticals and the internet will protect them.

Now that's scary.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

Three states passed legislation this year mandating consent education. The extent to which these lessons are taught in private schools is less clear.

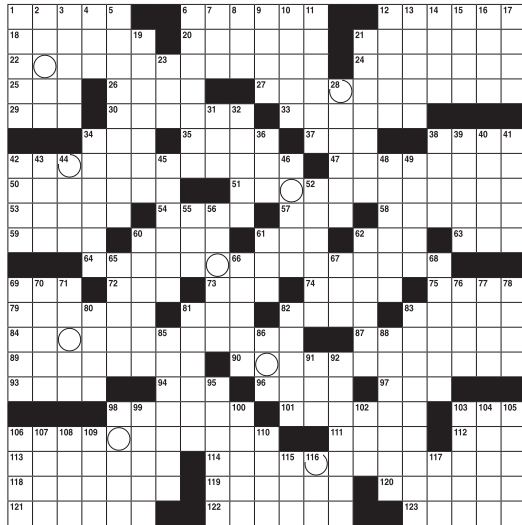
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

MIND THE GAP

BY TOM MCCOY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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- 114 Store banner ...
- 118 Early ___
- 119 Scowling
- 120 Worry in East Africa
- 121 Something to chew on
- 122 Some see-through curtains
- 123 "Ni-i-i-ice!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Common phobia source
- 2 Overturn
- 3 Omani money
- 4 Powerful arm
- 5 What a "singleton" is, in baseball lingo
- 6 City from which the U.S. moved its embassy in 2018
- 7 Big retailer of camping gear
- 8 Middle-earth denizen
- 9 About
- 10 Keep busy
- 11 Dr. Seuss title animal
- 12 Be a lousy bedmate, say
- 13 Physicist Mach
- 14 Little prostitution
- 15 "Ain't I something?!"
- 16 Cabinet dept.
- 17 Kind
- 19 Is on the up and up?
- 21 Part of a place setting
- 23 Mom-and-pop org.
- 28 Followers of talks
- 31 "___ to" (Verdi aria)
- 32 Chose not to
- 34 Whigs' opponents
- 36 "Water, water, everywhere," per Coleridge
- 38 "You're in my spot!"
- 39 Like an increasing amount of immigration to the U.S. nowadays
- 40 Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy"
- 41 More cunning
- 42 The "r" of $r = dt$
- 43 Kind of hygiene
- 44 Experts in the field?
- 45 Publisher's announcement
- 46 Wet
- 48 Visits a school, maybe
- 49 Feeling with a deadline approaching
- 52 Like carbon 12, but not carbon 14
- 55 Trip up
- 56 Intrinsically
- 60 Eyeball layer
- 61 Calif.'s 101, e.g.
- 62 Containing iron
- 65 Gung-ho
- 66 Quick signatures, quickly
- 67 Grammy winner Corinne Bailey ___
- 68 Poet who originated the phrase "harmony in discord"
- 69 Apostle of Ireland, for short
- 70 Lounges
- 71 Have because of
- 72 Respond to a bumper sticker, maybe
- 77 Bill
- 78 Lilac or lavender
- 80 Section at a zoo
- 81 Distant source of radio waves
- 82 "X" isn't really one
- 83 Void
- 85 Wallop
- 86 Org. founded under Nixon
- 88 General rule
- 91 "Aw, nuts!"
- 92 Converts to binary, e.g.
- 93 Literally, "great O's"
- 98 "Pretty slick!"
- 99 Expression of dismay
- 100 "Gah!"
- 102 Egg: Prefix
- 103 Join
- 104 Have a feeling
- 105 Bring into the world
- 106 Truckful
- 107 Computer command
- 108 Problem for a plumber
- 109 Remained fresh
- 110 ___ chips (trendy snack food)
- 115 Scott's refusal
- 116 Scott's warning
- 117 ___ Amsterdam (name on colonial maps)



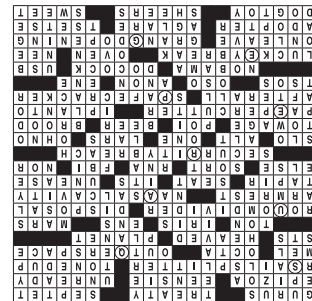
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- 117 ___ Amsterdam (name on colonial maps)

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com. Online: gunstonstreet.com.

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FACES

WORKING BLUE

Will Smith reveals first 'Aladdin' poster

Will Smith can't wait for Disney's remake of "Aladdin." The star Wednesday revealed the live-action musical's first poster. Looking similar to the 1992 Robin Williams film, the poster features an ornate blade and blue smoke along with the words: "Choose wisely." The film's release date of May 2019 also is listed.

Smith, who plays the Genie, wrote on Facebook: "LEMME OUT! Can't wait for y'all to see Me BLUE." Naomi Scott, who played the Pink Ranger in the 2017 "Power Rangers" movie, is Princess Jasmine in the film, directed by Guy Ritchie.

From The Associated Press

Singer and actor Will Smith — performing in Moscow in July — revealed the first poster of Disney's remake of "Aladdin."

MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP



Study: Women make TV directing job gains, minorities lag

From wire reports

More women are being hired to direct TV episodes but the numbers remain stagnant for directors of color, according to an industry guild study.

Women directed a record 25 percent of episodic television in the 2017-18 season, an increase of 4 percent from the previous season, according to the Directors Guild of America study released Wednesday.

African-Americans directed 13 percent of series TV in 2017-18, unchanged from last season, the study found. Asian-Americans at 6 percent and Latinos 5 percent were up one percentage point each from 2016-17.

"This bright spot here is that the doors are finally opening wider for women, who are seeing more opportunities to direct television," guild President Thomas Schlamme said in a statement. "But it's disappointing the same can't be said for directors of color."

The series "SMILE," "One Day at a Time" and "Queen Sugar" were among the stand-out gender and ethnic diversity in their directing ranks. Among studios, Disney-ABC, Twentieth Century Fox, Lionsgate and CBS held the top four spots in the study.

The annual report examined 4,300 episodes produced in the 2017-2018 season, which the guild said represented a drop from the all-time high of nearly 4,500 episodes in the season before. For women, there was a disparity in opportunities based on ethnicity. The share of episodes directed by white women rose 3 points to 19 percent, while women of color notched a one-point increase. White men saw their share of TV series directing jobs drop from 41 percent to 36 percent, the study found. Among all men, the share of jobs dropped four points to 75 percent.

According to U.S. Census Bureau figures, men represent 49.2 percent of the population, with white men at about one-third. Latinos make up 18.1 percent of the country, African-Americans 13.4 percent and Asian-Americans 5.8 percent.

A guild report released in August found "in-

sider hiring" to be hindering the move toward diversity. Writers, actors or others already connected with a TV series can be "gifted" one-time directing jobs, blocking career progress for women and people of color, the guild said.

NBC's 'Songland' contest to search for hit tunesmiths

Songwriters get the spotlight in a new NBC talent contest.

The network said Tuesday that its 11-episode series, "Songland," will give undiscovered songwriters the chance to create a hit. In each episode, five contestants will work with music producers and a recording artist to perfect their tunes. One winner per episode will have his or her song released as the artist's next single, NBC said.

The first episode includes Ryan Tedder of OneRepublic, songwriter Ester Dean and country singer-songwriter Shane McAnally. Charlie Puth is the recording artist. Eurythmics co-founder Dave Stewart and Maroon 5's Adam Levine are among the executive producers of "Songland."

Would-be contestants will be able to apply at an upcoming website, NBC said.

A series debut date wasn't announced.

Other news

■ Seth Meyers' "Late Night" will go live on Nov. 6 to weigh in on the results of the mid-term elections. The NBC star will offer real-time commentary and analysis during his usual East Coast time slot of 12:35 a.m., NBC announced Wednesday.

■ Colson Whitehead's next novel after "The Underground Railroad" is another look at the country's tragic past. Doubleday announced Wednesday that Whitehead's "The Nickel Boys" is set in a brutal reform school in early 1960s Florida. The book is based on real events during the Jim Crow era, with students being beaten and sexually abused. The narrative centers on two students, one of whom be-

lieves in Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of nonviolent change and another who thinks the world is hopelessly rigged. The book is scheduled for July 2019.

■ Pop star Justin Timberlake and basketball legend Kobe Bryant are in talks to create programs for a new online service called Quibi, according to people with knowledge of the matter, joining a video startup backed by titans from Hollywood and the Silicon Valley. The two stars would produce and appear in the series for service, whose name is short for quick bites, under the deals being discussed, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the negotiations haven't been completed.

■ Former "Top Chef" Fatima Ali says she has a year to live. The 29-year-old underwent surgery to remove a tumor in January. However, Ali wrote Tuesday in an essay for Bon Appetit that the "cancer cells my doctors believed had vanished are back with a vengeance in my left hip and femur bone." Ali says her oncologist told her she has a year to live, "with or without the new chemotherapy regimen."

■ Authorities say the husband of "Real Housewives of New Jersey" star Teresa Giudice will be deported back to Italy once he's released from prison next year. Giuseppe "Joe" Giudice appeared before an immigration court in York, Penn., via teleconference Wednesday. He can file an appeal. Giudice is an Italian citizen who came to the U.S. as an infant and wasn't aware he wasn't an American citizen.

■ Verne Troyer, best known for his role as Mini-Me in the Austin Powers movie franchise, died last April of suicide by alcohol intoxication, the Los Angeles County coroner's office reported Wednesday. Troyer had a potentially fatal level of alcohol in his system and was saying repeatedly that he wanted to die when he was admitted to a Los Angeles hospital April 3, according to the coroner's report. He died there April 21 of multiple organ failure.

Katy Perry explains why she's taking a break from music

By PETER SILENDORIO
New York Daily News

You might not hear Katy Perry roar for a little while.

The pop star says she's taking a break from making music after releasing her fifth studio album last year and completing her latest drawn-out world tour over the summer.

"I've been on the road for like 10 years, so I'm just going to chill," Perry told Footwear News. "I'm not going to go straight into making another record. I feel like I've done a lot. I feel like I've rung the bell of being a pop star very loudly, and I'm very grateful for that."

Perry, 33, has taken on a number of different ventures beyond songwriting and performing in recent years, including starring as a judge on "American Idol" and working on her Katy Perry Collections shoe line. The "Roar" singer also notes she's made it a point recently to focus on her mental well-being.

"I've done a lot of work lately in the past year on my mental health, on my spiritual and emotional side," she told the outlet. "Now I've been trying to find the balance and not overindulging, just trying to stay grounded. My sister lives right next door to me, and my family is not really fazed by anything."

"They're proud of me, but they don't put me on a pedestal — everybody is pretty awesome," she continued. "My boyfriend (Orlando Bloom) is a great anchor. For some reason, I attract people who are really real and call me out on stuff when I'm being cuckoo."

Perry and Bloom, 41, began dating in early 2016. They broke up last year before getting back together in 2018.

It's now been more than a decade since Perry broke through as one of pop music's biggest stars, and she's happy to no longer feel the pressure of having to prove herself. "Well, I knew what I wanted to do when I was 9 years old, so everything else became secondary to that," she told Footwear News. "I didn't really pay attention to anything besides my craft — which is great, and I love it. I love making music. I love writing. But I don't feel like I'm part of a game anymore; I just feel like I'm an artist. I don't feel like I have to prove anything, which is a freeing feeling."



AP

Katy Perry says she's taking a break from making music.

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OPINION

Reconfiguring the Senate is a fantasy

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg News

As the confirmation of Justice Brett Kavanaugh made its painful way through the Senate, a number of liberals began to make an important discovery: The U.S. Senate is undemocratic. Small states get the same quantity of senators as large states. It's often added that the ratio of population between the largest and the smallest states was "only" 12 to 1 when the Constitution was first adopted. Now it is 68 to 1. (California to Wyoming, in case you're counting.)

Dissatisfaction with this aspect of constitutional design fits in with leftover frustration over the Electoral College in 2016. Together these nonmajoritarian flaws are breeding demands for change. Something must be done, the critics say, to avoid rendering the Supreme Court, presidency and perhaps the entire Constitution illegitimate.

There's nothing incorrect about the objections. The design of the Senate is antidemocratic. In fact, it's so undemocratic that it would be unconstitutional if it were used by the states. After the Supreme Court adopted the one person one vote principle in the 1960s, states were obligated to apply a proportional method for representation of their own senatorial districts.

However, the equal protection clause of the Constitution doesn't apply to the Senate itself. That's because the design of the Senate is baked into the Constitution — and it was baked in long before the equal protection clause was even imagined.

But here's the thing: The Constitution was designed precisely so that no one would be able to do anything about the undemocratic Senate. Almost uniquely among constitu-

tional provisions, and unlike the Electoral College, the assignment of two senators to every state regardless of population is essentially unamendable. The Constitution specifically says that states can only lose their Senate representation with their consent. That's never going to happen.

How can I say that with such confidence? Because the fight over the undemocratic Senate was already the central issue in the constitutional convention in 1787 in Philadelphia. The nonrepresentative design was a source of outrage and profound frustration to James Madison, the primary architect of the Constitution, and the other representatives of large states like New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The small states made equal Senate representation into the linchpin of their willingness to join the Constitution. They anticipated staying small. They anticipated future efforts to strip them of their Senate representation. And they made sure those would never succeed.

To understand what happened, you have to start with Madison's initial constitutional blueprint, which was introduced in the first few days of the convention and dubbed (appropriately enough) "the Virginia plan." Madison called for two houses in the legislature. He assumed that both would be allocated proportionately according to the population of the states.

Almost from the beginning, small-state delegates hinted that they would not accept proportional representation in the Senate. Madison and the other large-state delegates didn't take the objections seriously. As Madison saw it, the small states were weak and would have no choice but to accept what the large states imposed on them. A New York delegate, Gouverneur

Morris, went so far as to say in the convention that if the constitutional negotiations broke down, the only alternative to civil war, and the large states would swallow the small states by force.

Realizing that the large states weren't willing to accept their (weak) arguments for equal Senate representation, the small states played the only card they had: They staged a walkout. Their position was simple. Unless they got equal representation in the Senate, they would ensure the failure of the convention, and damn the consequences.

Madison was beside himself. But there was nothing he could do, and he knew it. Among other problems, the system for voting in the convention was by state, not by size. In retrospect, Madison should have realized that in a convention where voting wasn't proportional, the small states were never going to give up the one true advantage they had.

Faced with small-state intransigence, Madison and the big states compromised. It was compromise or no Constitution. As a result, the only way we could change the Senate today would be to trash the Constitution and start again. Even a new convention might not solve the problem. After all, how would we vote in such a convention? You can be sure the small states would propose voting by state — like in 1787.

The takeaway is that whenever you think about changing the Constitution, you always have to ask: Change it to what? What's the realistic alternative? Compromise is painful, and often immoral. And without it, there would be no Constitution.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Noah Feldman is a professor of law at Harvard University. His books include "The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius, Partisan, President."

Trump logic: No opinion on me means you back me

By PHILIP BUMP

The Washington Post

Much to her surprise, New York magazine reporter Olivia Nuzzi found herself sitting in the

Oval Office on Tuesday with President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and press secretary Sarah Sanders. Sanders had asked Nuzzi to come speak with Trump; the others sort of materialized as the conversation progressed.

The subject soon turned to how well Trump's presidency was going, as it does when Trump is talking to a reporter or, really, any other human.

"Doing four rallies this week," he said. "I think the rallies have, frankly, built up our poll numbers very greatly. What am I now in Rasmussen? 52?"

Sanders confirmed that, yes, Trump was at 52 percent approval in Rasmussen Reports' polling. He wasn't actually; he was at 51 percent, a figure that has since fallen to 49 percent in polling conducted by the pollster, which has consistently generated Trump's best numbers.

He continued.

"Plus there's 10 percent, they think, where people don't respond, unfortunately," he said. "I'm not sure if this is nice or not nice, but when they don't respond, that means it's an automatic Trump vote. But it's a 52, and we're doing very well in the poll."

This is a remarkable claim.

Trump's relationship with polling has consistently been dodgy since the spring of 2016. Before that, the polls that mattered were Republican presidential primary polls and Trump was dominating. So a campaign stops, Trump would often pull

a sheet of paper out of his jacket pocket to recite the latest numbers — or just relay them from the top of his head.

But then the primary ended and national and state polls consistently showed Trump trailing. Suddenly, polling became suspect, with Trump and his allies theorizing that his support wasn't being accurately or fully measured. Trump voters were wary of talking to pollsters, the theory went, or they lied to pollsters from the hated Mainstream Media. On the national level, though, the 2016 polls were on the money: He trailed Hillary Clinton in the polls and then trailed her in the popular vote.

Once inaugurated, Trump's rhetoric around polling shifted a bit. While consistently lifting up Rasmussen's results (usually once those numbers passed 50 percent before receding again), Trump would insist that smart analysts recommended taking on a few percentage points more accuracy to capture optimism about him.

At a rally in North Dakota in June, Trump made this point.

"By the way, our people, they call it the base, they used to say it's 35," Trump said, referring to the percentage of the country. Then they said it's 40. Then they said it's 42. Then they said it's 44. And we're driving them crazy. Now they say it's over 50 percent And then they say — some great people — they said, 'Anytime Trump gets a poll, add 12 to it.' Really."

In Michigan in April, Trump gave some more of the same.

"Some genius analyst said, 'But he's got at least 10 percent of the people that don't want to say they are voting for him,'" he said. "And you know what I say to that? We'll take them anyway, whatever it takes."

So we come back to Trump's most detailed version of this misinterpretation, offered to Nuzzi: 10 percent of people don't

respond, and "when they don't respond, that means it's an automatic Trump vote."

Trump pretty clearly doesn't mean the people who don't respond to pollsters' calls. That's far more than 10 percent of the calls made, as anyone watching The New York Times' real-time polling can attest. He appears instead to mean the 10 percent (or however many) who tell pollsters that they have no opinion on whether they approve of Trump's job performance.

Take CNN's recent poll with SSRS. It found that 41 percent of Americans approved of Trump and 52 percent disapproved, with 7 percent offering no opinion. Anyways, let's set that aside for a moment. The 7 percent get added to the 41 percent because they are "automatic Trump votes."

Is that fair? Well, no. Some of those "no opinion" respondents might quietly support Trump to some extent, sure. Others, though, may pay only passing attention to politics and aren't even in an comfortable expressing a strong opinion. "No opinion" is also often a way station between support and opposition. There may be a lot of people who supported Trump but were questioning that position or who opposed him and are giving him a second look who currently haven't settled on an comfortable expressing a strong opinion.

What Trump is doing here isn't subtle. He's trying to bolster his low approval ratings by doing some clumsy sleight of hand. Trump's poll is rarely to accurately represent himself and his administration and often to inflate how well he and it are faring. Approval numbers are frustratingly precise for his needs, so he introduces some uncertainty.

Nuzzi, to her credit, was clearly not convinced.

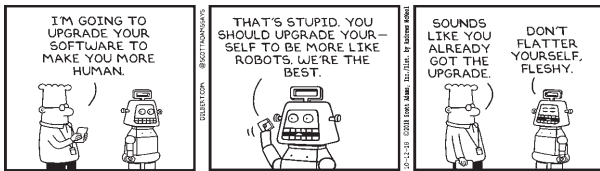
Philip Bump writes about politics for the Washington Post blog The Fix. He is based in New York City.

Americans love a comeback story.
Monday night, they saw two of them.

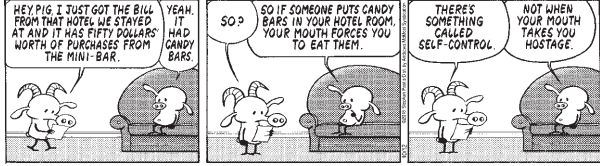
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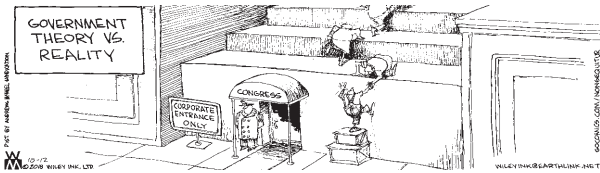
Dilbert



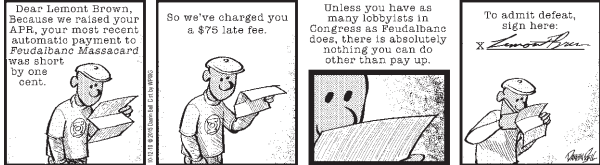
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



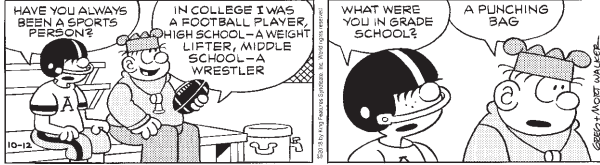
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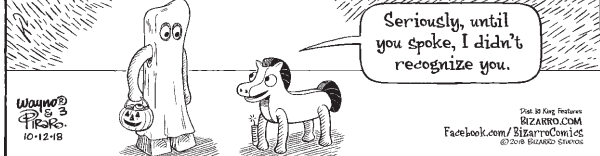
Carpe Diem



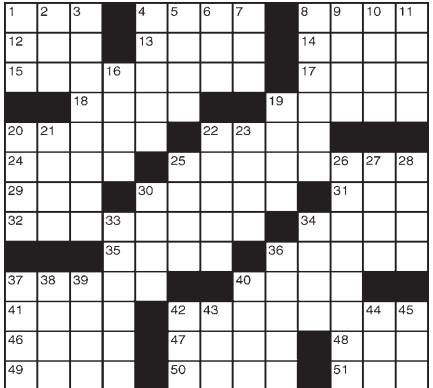
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 That guy's
- 4 Big wind
- 8 Island near Java
- 12 Packed away
- 13 Computer brand
- 14 Wicked
- 15 Jumping game
- 17 Defeat
- 18 Sidewalk eatery
- 19 Staffers
- 20 Wear down
- 22 Foreshadow
- 24 Herbal drinks
- 25 Garbage dump
- 29 Sit-up targets
- 30 Buenos —
- 31 Museum-funding org.
- 32 Library fines
- 34 Large amount
- 35 Guns the engine
- 36 Treat as a god
- 37 "Hogwash!"
- 40 PETA concerns
- 41 Tarzan's clique
- 42 Speed demon's attribute
- 46 Give a hoot
- 47 Fill fully
- 48 Fan's cry
- 49 Historic periods

DOWN

- 50 Union payment
- 51 Firmament
- 1 "2001" computer
- 2 Mineral suffix
- 3 Shoreline
- 4 Blunder
- 5 Farm unit
- 6 Sign before Virgo
- 7 Work unit
- 8 Conviction
- 9 Eager
- 10 Grown-up nits
- 11 Sorts
- 16 Cushions
- 19 Tosses in
- 20 List-ending abbr.
- 21 Ms. McEntire
- 22 Exposes
- 23 Singles
- 25 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
- 26 Cutting teeth
- 27 Piece of lettuce
- 28 — Godiva
- 30 Not many
- 33 Deletes
- 34 Feudal slave
- 36 Ranch visitors
- 37 Runner's tempo
- 38 Practice pugilism
- 39 Wife of Zeus
- 40 Kismet
- 42 "Acid"
- 43 Vichy water
- 44 Sturdy tree
- 45 Your

Answer to Previous Puzzle



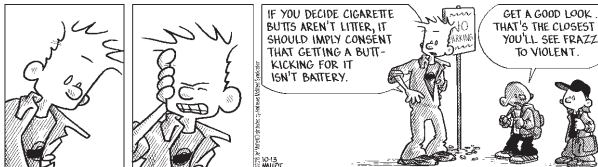
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CRYPTOQUIP

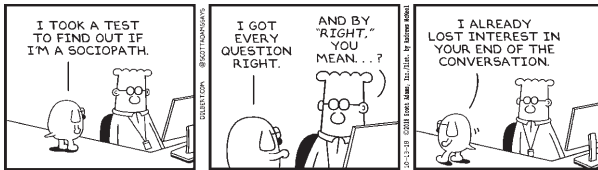
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BZVCHDP" ZEUGTOO, AJ

FJW OTZOJD OZGZDAJD?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMMAND CAUSING SAILORS TO START USING THEIR COMPUTERS AND SMARTPHONES: "ALL HANDS ON TECH!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals W

Frazz



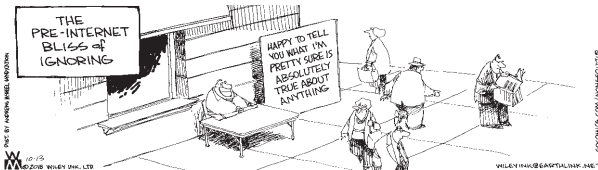
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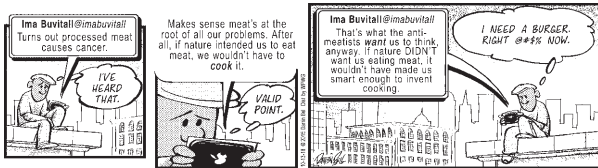
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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48							49				50	
51							52				53	
54							55				56	

ACROSS

- 1 Ritz
- 5 Toll road
- 9 Buddhist sect
- 12 Garfield's pal
- 13 Hurler Hersher
- 14 Altar affirmative
- 15 "A Doll's House" heroine
- 16 Onion's kin
- 17 Can metal
- 18 Crossword diagram
- 19 Nile reptile
- 20 One of the Jackson 5
- 21 Chick's mom
- 23 Jurist Lance
- 25 Made 24 hours ago
- 28 Pollster's finds
- 32 Unlocks
- 33 Chopin piece
- 34 Money in coin
- 36 Egg-whisking utensil
- 37 Cock and bull?
- 38 Sixth sense
- 39 Karate school
- 42 3000, to Cato
- 44 Use a fruit knife
- 48 Alias abbr.
- 49 Pop choice
- 50 "Zounds!"
- 51 Wee bit

- 52 "Dracula" author Stoker
- 53 Ladder part
- 54 Sailor's assent
- 55 Eyelid woe
- 56 Rice wine

- 22 Commercial cow
- 24 Grove units
- 25 Coils
- 26 PC program
- 27 "— haw!" (rodeo cry)
- 29 Fanatic
- 30 HST follower
- 31 Sun, talk
- 35 Debutante's date
- 36 Turned into
- 39 Facts and figures
- 40 Fine
- 41 Green gem
- 43 Sculpture medium
- 45 Water, in Mexico
- 46 Social standing
- 47 Rim
- 49 "60 Minutes" airer

DOWN

- 1 Vintage video game
- 2 Scent
- 3 iPhone voice
- 4 The boss's boss
- 5 Krakow's country
- 6 Enrages
- 7 "Consider this a gift"
- 8 Wapiti
- 9 Tubular pasta
- 10 Redact
- 11 Forbidden act
- 20 Lively tunes

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	I	S	G	A	L	E	B	A	L	I
A	T	E	A	C	E	R	E	V	I	L
L	E	A	P	F	R	O	G	L	I	C
C	A	F	E	A	I	D	E	S		
E	R	O	D	E	B	O	D	E		
T	E	A	S	L	A	N	D	F	I	L
A	B	S	A	I	R	E	S	N	E	A
L	A	T	E	F	E	E	S	S	C	A
P	S	H	A	W						
A	P	E	S	L	E	A	D	F	O	O
C	A	R	E	S	A	T	E	R	A	H
E	R	A	S	D	U	E	S	S	K	Y

10-13

CRYPTOQUIP

RUKQ RMBXV UKEW LTMEPVVW
 FBLLMTQ OMT K SMQKGXW
 AWTJKS IMJLMFWT'F
 JKQQTWFFWF? GKIU'F
 FLTPSAF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE SHAKING SOME SALT ON A "DEAD MAN WALKING" ACTRESS, DO YOU SEASON SARANDON?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals H



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Automotive 140

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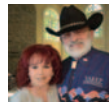
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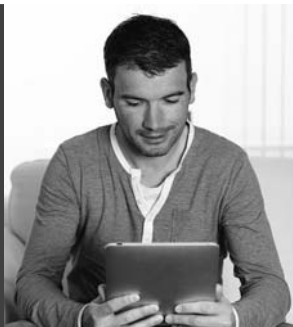


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NBA

Return to center: Big men still vital in league

By CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Steven Adams is invaluable to the Oklahoma City Thunder.

He's also a reminder: Big men in the NBA are still vital.

The imposing 7-foot center from New Zealand is helping change the recent narrative that NBA centers are an endangered species, something that — based on spending and drafting this summer — is evidently not the case.

The perimeter-oriented and defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors landed All-Star DeMarcus Cousins this summer, albeit on a \$5.3 million bargain deal. NBA teams went big at this year's 2018 draft, with Deandre Ayton and Marvin Bagley going No. 1 and No. 2, and centers taking four of the first seven spots. And this summer, \$285 million worth of contracts went to three centers — Nikola Jokic, Clint Capela and Jusuf Nurkic.

Not bad for often underappreciated guys.

"I just think guys are just getting more opportunities to play their game, play outside the box," Detroit's Andre Drummond said.

Adams is a great example.

He doesn't get many, if any, plays called for him — but he's essential, setting effective screens for Russell Westbrook and Paul George and gobbling up rebounds. He's a 255-pound bruiser and enforcer, though the Thunder rave about his ability to move.

"The one thing that enables Steven to be so effective is his overall athletic ability and his quickness and his foot speed for a guy his size," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "At times, we'll have him switch onto guards, and we feel pretty good about that. He runs the floor and gets offensive rebounds. I think his feet — as good as his feet are, will allow him to play in a game that has gotten a lot smaller."

True, big men everywhere are reinventing themselves.

Drummond, Miami's Hassan Whiteside, Boston's Al Horford, New Orleans' Anthony Davis, Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns, Denver's Jokic, Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, Houston's Capela and Utah's Rudy Gobert are all key to their respective teams' hopes this season. And Washington is counting on Dwight Howard, when his injury woes allow his debut season with the Wizards to begin.

They all have extended their defensive range while still protecting the rim. They all shoot jumpers, and yes, some knock down the occasional three-pointer. And they do it while often feeling a bit disrespected.

It seems like they don't want us here," Los Angeles Lakers center JaVale McGee said, talking about his perception of a league-wide lack of love for big men. "They're trying to get us out of here. The prime example is them taking us out of All-Star ballots. They literally took the whole position off the All-Star ballot. So just think about

By the numbers

4

Number of centers in the first seven spots of the 2018 NBA draft

\$5.3

Million dollars were paid by the Golden State Warriors to land free agent center DeMarcus Cousins during the offseason.

SOURCE: Associated Press



OWEN BAKER/AP

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) shoots over Los Angeles Clippers guard Austin Rivers.

that."

McGee's right. Probably no more than one or two true centers will be All-Stars under the current voting format.

But chances are, no team will get to the NBA Finals without a good big, either.

That's why Thunder general manager Sam Presti holds someone like the 25-year-old Adams in the esteem he does.

"Steven's got like five years before he's in his prime," Presti said. "You think about the centers in the league that are still going to be in their prime five years from now — it's a small group."

Much of the newfound big-man versatility comes from the three-pointer.

Cousins made 11 threes in the first five years of his career, and then began shooting them regularly. His 2.2 made threes per game last season were a career high. He also averaged a career-best 5.4 assists. Embiid has become the face of the 76ers with his versatility — he dominates inside, shoots threes and averaged 3.2 assists per game last season.

Drummond said Embiid is a perfect example of the new



New Orleans Pelicans' DeMarcus Cousins (0) dunks against Charlotte Hornets' Marvin Williams (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C. Their roles have been defined, but Steven Adams, DeMarcus Cousins, Anthony Davis, Nikola Jokic, Clint Capela and others have shown teams still covet a dominant center.

center.

"He came in and started shooting threes and handling the ball and the next year, everybody's doing it," Drummond said. "Everybody's doing a good job of evolving to the new style of basketball."

At 6-foot-10, Jokic is part of that new wave of centers, earning a \$148 million, five-year extension with the Nuggets.

Last season, he averaged 18.5 points and 10.7 rebounds, good numbers for a big. But he also shot 40 percent from three-point range on 3.7 attempts per game and averaged 6.1 assists.

"I don't know if he's reinventing the game or not," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "All I know is he's a Nugget and he's going to be here for a while."

Adams said the biggest change defensively is that centers are more likely to pop out on pick-and-rolls than in the past.

"The main thing was just changing foot position and kind of habits coming off the pick-and-roll defense," he said. "Other

than that, mate, it's just all the same stuff, because that's where probably — yeah, probably all of them really, they get their shots off just pick-and-rolls, pick-and-pops, stuff like that."

It's not a mandate that bigs must shoot threes in this NBA.

But it helps, especially with everyone in some sort of pace-and-space game.

"You leave me open, I'm shooting," Drummond said. "I'm going to make it eventually, so you keep leaving me open, I'm going to make them."



SUE GANOCK/AP

Oklahoma City Thunder center Steven Adams (12) blocks a shot by Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) in the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game in Tulsa, Okla.

NHL

Around the league

Poised to withstand early injuries

Depth should keep San Jose, others in hunt

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Doug Wilson didn't go looking for Joe Thornton insurance last summer. The general manager of the San Jose Sharks already had it.

The Sharks didn't panic when they found out their longtime star had another setback with a series of nagging right knee injuries. They knew what they could count on from captain Joe Pavelski and the rest of the supporting cast.

"We're very fortunate we have a lot of players that can go up and down in the lineup," Wilson said. "Our players just look at it as they just move up a role or slip into a different position, and it's not really that much of an adjustment for them because they've done it before."

All over the NHL, teams are adjusting on the fly to a surprising number of significant injuries early in the season, including a handful of starting goaltenders.

The Kings are calling Jonathan Quick week-to-week with a lower-body injury. The Panthers will be without Roberto Luongo for two to four weeks because of a sprained ligament in his right knee, and the Penguins don't know when Matt Murray will be back after being diagnosed with yet another concussion.

The Flyers have ruled out high-priced forward James van Riemsdyk for the next five to six weeks, and the Blue Jackets are without top defenseman Seth Jones and center Brandon Dubinsky.

The Sharks in particular seem best prepared to withstand the loss of Thornton because of organizational depth in the form of summer addition Antti Suomela and ready-made NHL forwards like Rourke Chartier, Marcus Sorensen and Dylan Gambrell. They showed that already by drubbing the Flyers 8-2 on Monday night.

The organization hopes doctors caught the infection in Thornton's knee early enough that he won't be out too long. Still, Wilson expects to use 28 or 29 players this season and credits the versatility of players on the roster and coaching of Peter DeBoer for having San Jose ready for this scenario. "When you use a difference-maker, no team can just plug and play to replace a difference-maker. But then you become the sum of all your parts," Wilson said. "A lot of our guys are not kids.... When people say they're new or younger, they're actually mature players. And most importantly our coaches and our players trust them, and that's half the



TONY AVELAR/AP

San Jose Sharks general manager Doug Wilson didn't go looking for insurance last summer when he found out about Joe Thornton's, above, latest setback with a series of nagging right knee injuries. Wilson knew what they could count on from captain Joe Pavelski and the rest of their supporting cast.



TOM MIHALEK/AP

The Philadelphia Flyers lost James van Riemsdyk for five to six weeks with a lower-body injury.

battle."

No GM can go into an offseason making moves on the uncertain scenario that a star will go down. But previous experiences paved the way for Los Angeles, Columbus and Florida to have a plan in place.

Quick missed four months two seasons ago, and Luongo sat out two months with a groin injury last year. Florida has backup James Reimer signed long term as an option already, and Los Angeles traded for former top prospect

Jack Campbell and brought back veteran Peter Budaj as depth.

"We've experienced it here two years in a row," Kings GM Rob Blake said. "We lost Quicke for four or five months and Jeff Carter the same last year. (Coach John Stevens') message is the same: the next guy up, someone's going to come in and fill that spot. Will he be at the level of Jonathan Quick? Will he be at the level of Jeff Carter or (Anze) Kopitar? Probably not. But they are adequate players, and the rest around

have to be better, too."

The Penguins for now are counting on young goalies Casey DeSmith and Tristan Jarry to shoulder the load without Murray. Knowing them from his time in Pittsburgh, Vegas nemesis Marc-Andre Fleury said: "They're both very talented goalies.... I'm sure they'll be fine."

Often, it's not about one player filling a void. Columbus GM Jarmo Kekalainen doesn't expect one defenseman to replace Jones or one center to step right into Dubinsky's role.

"If somebody comes from being the seventh, eighth defenseman to thinking he's going to play 27 minutes to replace Seth Jones with all his strengths, probably either he shouldn't be the seventh defenseman or he's got unrealistic expectations," Kekalainen said. "Everybody who's coming into the lineup from outside of the lineup should have their eyes wide open with the opportunity in front of them, but also realizing what their own strengths are and what their role on the team is and how they can be successful."

That's the case in Philadelphia, where Jordan Weal gets the first crack at filling in for van Riemsdyk after being a healthy scratch the first two games of the season. Like the Sharks, the Flyers believe they have flexibility among their forwards.

"We have a lot of players that are versatile in terms of being able to play the middle or play the wing," coach Dave Hakstol said. "In the short term, that'll challenge us and challenge our depth and challenge somebody else to step in and do a good job."

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
Toronto	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Boston	4	2	1	0	5	20	17		
Buffalo	3	2	1	0	4	10	10		
Montreal	2	1	0	1	3	7	4		
Ottawa	4	1	2	0	3	15	20		
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	2	7	2		
Detroit	3	0	1	2	2	6	10		
Florida	1	0	0	1	1	2	2		

Metropolitan Division

Carolina	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	3	2	0	1	5	18	9
Columbus	3	2	1	0	4	9	7
N.Y. Islanders	3	2	1	0	4	16	19
Philadelphia	4	2	2	0	4	16	19
New Jersey	2	1	0	1	3	8	3
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	0	2	8	11
N.Y. Rangers	3	0	3	0	0	8	14

Western Conference

Central Division									
Chicago	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Colorado	3	2	1	0	4	11	8		
Nashville	4	2	1	0	4	7	8		
Dallas	3	2	1	0	4	12	8		
Winnipeg	2	0	1	0	0	4	8		
St. Louis	2	0	1	1	1	5	10		
Minnesota	2	0	0	1	1	2	6		

Pacific Division

Anaheim	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	4	3	0	1	7	11	7
San Jose	4	2	1	0	4	13	13
Los Angeles	3	1	1	1	3	7	7
Vegas	3	1	1	0	2	7	6
Vancouver	3	1	2	0	2	12	14
Edmonton	1	0	1	0	0	2	5

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's games

Carolina 5, Vancouver 3	
San Jose 8, Philadelphia 2	
Columbus 5, Colorado 2	
Calgary 3, Nashville 0	
Winnipeg 2, Los Angeles 1	
Toronto 4, Dallas 3	

Wednesday's games

Philadelphia 7, Ottawa 4	
Washington 5, Vegas 2	
Arizona 3, Anaheim 2	

Thursday's games

Edmonton at Boston	
Washington at New Jersey	
Columbus at Tampa Bay	
Vegas at Pittsburgh	
San Jose at N.Y. Rangers	
Columbus at Florida	

Friday's games

Los Angeles at Montreal	
Vancouver at Tampa Bay	
Toronto at Detroit	
Winnipeg at Nashville	
Chicago at Minnesota	
Calgary at St. Louis	

Saturday's games

Vegas at Philadelphia	
Edmonton at N.Y. Rangers	
Los Angeles at Ottawa	
Detroit at Boston	
Carolina at Minnesota	
Toronto at Washington	
Columbus at Tampa Bay	
Vancouver at Florida	

Sunday's games

Max Domi, Carolina	
N.Y. Islanders at Nashville	
Anaheim at Dallas	
St. Louis at Chicago	
Buffalo at Arizona	
Calgary at Colorado	

Sunday's games

San Jose at New Jersey	
Anaheim at St. Louis	
Carolina at Washington	

Leaders

Name	Team	GP	G
Auston Matthews	Toronto	4	7
John Tavares	Toronto	4	6
Jonathan Toews	Chicago	4	6
Patrice Bergeron	Boston	3	4
Evander Kane	San Jose	4	4
Patrick Kane	Chicago	4	4
Sean Monahan	Calgary	3	4
Joe Mouton	Los Angeles	3	4
Alex Ovechkin	Washington	3	4
Yule Connor	Winnipeg	3	3
Jack Eichel	Buffalo	4	3
Warren Foegele	Carolina	4	3
Evgeny Kuznetsov	Washington	3	3
Nathan MacKinnon	Colorado	3	3
David Pastrnak	Boston	3	3
Elles Peterson	Washington	3	3
Alexander Radulov	Dallas	3	3
Tyler Seguin	Dallas	3	3

Plus/Minus

Name	Team	GP	+/-
John Carlson	Washington	4	5
Dylan DeMelo	Ottawa	4	5
Max Domi	Nashville	4	5
Alex Iafallo	Los Angeles	3	5
Henrik Jokiharju	Chicago	3	5
David Knierim	Los Angeles	3	5
Jordan Martinook	Carolina	4	5
Justin Staal	Carolina	4	5
Justin Williams	Carolina	4	5
Colin de Haan	Carolina	3	4
Kyle Connor	Winnipeg	3	4
Justin Faulk	Carolina	3	4
Marc Dionne	Carolina	3	4
Erik Johnson	Colorado	3	4
Dunstan Keith	Carolina	3	4
Brad Marchand	Boston	3	4
D.J. Oshe	Washington	3	4
David Rittvik	Carolina	3	4
Andrei Svechnikov	Carolina	3	4
Jonathan Toews	Chicago	3	4

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE/AUTO RACING

Golf championships

Cortese, Shin make up for near misses

By GREGORY BROOME

Stars and Stripes

The wait is over for DODEA Europe's golf champions in waiting.

Seniors Phoebe Shin of Ramstein and Bryan Cortese of Wiesbaden claimed the respective girls and boys individual titles Thursday at Rheinblick Golf Course, completing decisive championship runs with overwhelming second-day efforts that mirrored the first-day dominance they displayed Wednesday.

Cortese finished with a two-day total of 90 points under the tournament's Stableford scoring system, 27 points ahead of runner-up George Stephan of Kaiserslautern. Shin totaled 74 points on the tournament, 16 points ahead of Royals teammate Lauren Sutherland.

There was little intrigue to be found over the two-day, 36-hole event beyond the margin of the winners' victory. That was fine with the winners, both of whom had finished as high as second in previous tournaments and were down to their last chance at a high school championship. Both felt this was their year to claim the top spot.

"The whole two days I was trying to play my game," said Shin, second a year ago as graduated Kaiserslautern star Jasmin Acker completed a three-year title reign. "Just focus as well as I could and just play the course to the best of my abilities instead of worrying about my opponents."

Cortese finished second in 2016 and third in 2017. He was confident he was due for a first-place finish in 2018.

"I just felt like I was able to win it," Cortese said. "If I played well, I'd have a high score."

Thursday's outcome was all but determined by close of business Wednesday. Shin enjoyed an eight-point advantage through 18 holes; Cortese led by nine.

Any lingering doubts were dismissed quickly Thursday morning as both leaders maintained their points advantage. Cortese posted 48 points, the best 18-hole score of any golfer in the event; Shin shot a 37 each day of a consistent wire-to-wire win.

While this week's championship meet had the vibe of a coronation, both Shin and Cortese encountered enough regular-season adversity to make their triumph something less than an absolute certainty.

Cortese bounced back from his struggles via pure repetition.

"I just practiced, practiced and practiced and it worked out," Cortese said.

Shin, meanwhile, had to finally conquer the "crazy" Rheinblick course that had given her trouble in previous tournaments and this season. She allowed that she "wasn't as confident as I would have liked to be" entering the tournament, but drew on years of hard-learned lessons to persevere.

"The first two years this course had always seemed so difficult and just really, really intimidating to me," Shin said. "Now, with my past years of experience, I felt more comfortable with it."

Ramstein repeated as both boys and girls team champion. The Royals boys, with three finishers in the top eight and four in the top 10 of the 18-player field, beat Wiesbaden 177 to 158. The Royals girls earned the top three individual finishes in the four-player field to claim the team title.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Bryan Cortese follows his putt during the final round of the DODEA Europe golf championships at Rheinblick Golf Course in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Thursday. Cortese captured the European crown with a Stableford 90 over the two days of competition. Cortese finished second in 2016 and third in 2017.



New DODEA Europe girls golf champion Phoebe Shin, of Ramstein, watches her chip head toward the pin during the final round of the golf championships at Rheinblick Golf Course in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Thursday. She scored a Stableford 74 over two rounds for the win.

Scoreboard

DODEA Europe Golf Championships

Thursday at Wiesbaden, Germany

Boys	
Ramstein 177, Wiesbaden 158, Kaiserslautern 88	
Bryan Cortese (Wies)	42-48=90
George Stephan (Kaia)	33-60=93
Ben Todman (Ram)	31-29=60
Faris Mohd-Ghazali (Bahrain)	27-32=59
Jonah Galvan (Wies)	28-22=50
Noah Cargos (Stu)	26-23=43
Micha Webb (Ram)	19-24=43
Eli Rothas (Ram)	20-21=41
Alexander Haug (Naples)	19-21=40
Christian Angeles (Ram)	15-18=33
Hayden Abercrombie (Lake)	11-19=30
Rian Ritter (Vilseck)	13-17=30
Mattias Perrin (Kaia)	13-12=25
Tyler Padzyk (Rota)	12-12=24
Chandler Peyton (Ram)	15-6=21
Nicholas Burnett (Wies)	6-12=18
Jackson Karwowski (Lakenheath)	5-9=13
Sam Ricketts (Lakenheath)	4-8=12
Girls	
Ramstein 171, Vilseck 34	
Phoebe Shin (Ram)	37-37=74
Lauren Sutherland (Ram)	29-29=58
Harley Barnes (Ram)	24-15=39
Annie Fees (Vil)	14-20=34

In the pits

NASCAR must market rising young drivers

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A race car driver can have all the personality in the world but skills not much better than an old moonshine runner. Or a driver might be the second coming of Richard Petty himself, then fail to transfer any of that on-track energy into a sponsor appearance.

Sometimes a driver is the perfect mix of talent and marketability, yet gets stuck in mediocre equipment or a team on a slide. It's hard to build a fan base with a car that can't compete.

NASCAR got a true gift when Chase Elliott and Ryan Blaney — YOUNG GUNS! — put together back-to-back playoff victories. The two are part of the next generation of NASCAR superstars, but marketing that becomes difficult when the drivers don't win.

The hard part temporarily over, NASCAR must now go to work on making America care about these fresh faces.

The task isn't too hard with Elliott, the 22-year-old son of Hall of Famer Bill Elliott. Ol' "Awesome Bill" won NASCAR's most popular driver award 16 times before he removed his name from balloting. All those fans flocked to Dale Earnhardt Jr., but he's retired now so Chase Elliott automatically got his Daddy's fans.

Still, Chase Elliott is never going to be the next Jeff Gordon, a pop culture icon and crossover in sports, media and entertainment. Elliott doesn't have the personality for it — remember, he's Bill Elliott's kid and Bill Elliott was hardly the most verbose driver of his time. The appeal of the younger Elliott is largely for fans who already enjoy NASCAR.

Blaney is a third-generation racer and North Carolina native who does have the personality to draw new fans. When Hollywood sends a young starlet to the race track to promote a project, NASCAR does its best to get a meet-and-greet with Blaney because he's current and capable of engaging in a topical conversation.

NASCAR has a slew of Blaneys and Elliotts — there is Daytona 500 winner Austin Dillon, his younger brother, Ty, Kyle Larson, and Bubba Wallace, the only black driver at NASCAR's top level. Consecutive wins the last two weeks from two of them has simply underscored the pressure the series has to make these drivers relevant.



PHOTOS BY NICK WASS/AP

Chase Elliott poses in Victory Lane next to his car after he won the NASCAR Cup series race Sunday at Dover International Speedway in Dover, Del.

The first step is to get the drivers in front of the public. NASCAR hasn't done a great job the last few years of forcing its drivers in front of the media on a weekly basis, which is the only way to build familiarity. The drivers also need to relate, somehow, to both existing fans and potential fans.

Some of the drivers, including Blaney, have made a point recently to pick a child from the stands as the recipient of the checkered flag. When Blaney won two races ago at Charlotte, he gave the flag to a little boy in Kyle Busch gear. The next day, the father brought his son to the Team Penske shop, where the boy not only got a T-shirt of his new favorite driver but they got to meet Blaney.

The day before Blaney's victory, 17-year-old Hallie Deegan became the first woman to win a NASCAR K&N West Series race with a bump-and-run move on her own teammate. She earned a bright yellow trophy in the shape of a water tower that weighed about 50 pounds and it immediately became her most prized possession.

The trophy went with her the day after her win — on a pair of commercial flights, showed under the seats in front of her. Her victory celebration was a long day of travel to North Carolina to promote the win.

Deegan was feted all over the NASCAR community and wrapped up her time with a stop in the studio at Fox Sports 1. As she was leaving the studio in her rental car, she captured for her social media followers a helicopter landing with another NASCAR driver arriving for his studio appearance. With a laugh, Deegan praised her Toyota Camry rental car.

Fans can't relate to the many NASCAR stars because they stopped being blue-collar as soon as they bought million-dollar motorhomes to give them a haven away from the public at the tracks. Then they got private planes to get out of the track as soon as possible.

NASCAR needs to reshape the image of a successful race car driver and make the fans care about them once again. The first step is turning them loose for the public with the expectation that the drivers start working a little bit harder to sell themselves as the future of the sport.



Ryan Blaney, center, a winner at Charlotte two races ago, has shown to be engaging with race fans.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bracing for the gauntlet

String of daunting Top 25 opponents to test Georgia's mettle

By PAUL NEWBERRY

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The first half of the season was a breeze for No. 2 Georgia.

Nodaunting opponents. No game closer than two touchdowns.

Now the real season begins. The Bulldogs must run a gauntlet of four straight games against Southeastern Conference opponents currently ranked in the Top 25, beginning with Saturday's trip to No. 13 LSU.

"Anytime you go on the road in the SEC, it's an adventure," coach Kirby Smart said. "We're going to play some good teams coming up, absolutely. It's tough everywhere in the SEC. Go talk to Tennessee and ask them the road they're dealing with. Go talk to LSU — they just played Florida. I mean, there's no time to cry about it. Nobody wants to hear that. You gotta get ready to go play."

Coming off a trip to the national championship game, Georgia (6-0, 4-0 SEC) has yet to be seriously challenged.

But beating teams like Austin Peay and Vanderbilt by an average of nearly 30 points a game makes this a rather mysterious team. Even this deep into the season, no one is quite sure how the Bulldogs will react when inevitably faced with an opponent that can match up with them physically and hang around well into the second half.

"We just know that from this point going forward we need to be on our A game, because this is our meat of our schedule," receiver Terry Godwin said. "We haven't played our best yet."



No. 2 Georgia (6-0, 4-0)
at No. 13 LSU (5-1, 2-1)

AFN-Sports2

9:30 p.m. Saturday CET

4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

After traveling to LSU (5-1, 2-1), Georgia has an off week before heading to Jacksonville for their Cocktail Party game against No. 14 Florida (5-1, 3-1). That's followed by another true road game at No. 18 Kentucky (5-1, 3-1), before the Bulldogs finally return to Sanford Stadium to host No. 21 Auburn (4-2, 1-2).

If the Bulldogs get through all that unscathed, they'll almost surely head to the SEC championship game with a perfect 12-0 record. The final two games are both at home against lowly Massachusetts and state rival Georgia Tech.

"Every week, the team gets better, they get more experience," tight end Isaac Nauta said. "Obviously, we've got a tough stretch up ahead with a lot of good opponents, but our preparation's not going to change. If anything, we're going

to push harder because we know the competition's going to get better. It's exciting knowing you're going to go into some of these big games and that's what you want to be a part of being a football player."

Missouri was the only team to remotely challenge Georgia, hanging within striking distance going to the fourth quarter before losing 43-29. In every other game, the final margin was at least 24 points.

That's made it even more important for the Bulldogs to challenge themselves during the week.

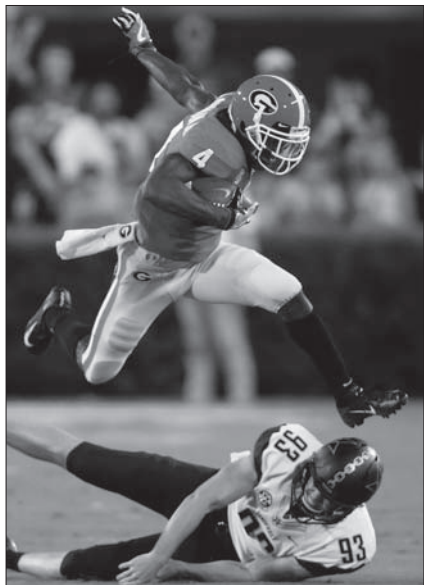
"We've been tested," Nauta said. "We believe that some of the best competition we're going to play is in practice."

This will be Georgia's first trip to Baton Rouge since 2008. While no one on the roster has played in Death Valley, they all have a sense of what they'll be up against in Tiger Stadium's notoriously raucous atmosphere.

"From everything I've heard, it's supposed to be an electric place to play in and they're really got the home-field advantage," Nauta said. "I'm ready to see what it's like."

Smart already knows. He played there in 1998 during his senior season at Georgia, spent the 2004 season as an LSU assistant, and returned four more times while serving as Alabama's defensive coordinator.

"They have an incredible environment," Smart said. "Their fan base is really second to none in the atmosphere they create



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP

Georgia wide receiver Meco Hardman (4) leaps over Vanderbilt kicker Parker Thome (93) during a kick return on Saturday.

from the time you pull in on the buses to play in the stadium. It's an awesome opportunity for our team to play on a national stage. It's an opportunity for a lot of our guys to play in a venue that a lot of Georgia players never got a chance to play in and some in the future. So that's an opportunity to play in. So that part is good."

In some ways, it feels like a season opener for the Bulldogs.

The beginning of the real season, for sure.

"That's why you come to the SEC," Smart said. "You want to run the gauntlet of challenging teams, unbelievable atmospheres on the road. That's what SEC football is all about."

Michigan eager for shot at Wisconsin at Big House

By MATT SCHOCH

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — No. 15 Wisconsin is coming to the Big House, and everyone is paying attention.

"This is one of those games that you see on the schedule," star linebacker Devin Bush Jr. said Monday. "You got to get those first six games out of the way, but you know this game is coming. Now that it's here, this is all you've been waiting for."

"This is the part of the season where it defines your whole season and what your team wants to do."

What No. 12 Michigan (5-1, 3-0 Big Ten) wants is a Big Ten title and spot in the College Football Playoff for the first time.

Saturday night's game at Michigan Stadium opens a demanding three-game stretch — Michigan State on Oct. 20, a bye and No. 8 Penn State at home Nov. 3.

Jim Harbaugh was 4-4 against those three in his first three seasons as Michigan coach, losing all three matchups last season.

Last year, a 24-10 loss to Wisconsin started a three-game Michigan losing streak to close a once promising season. Michigan led that game 10-7 midway through the third quarter but quarterbacks Brandon Peters and John O'Korn combined to connect on 11 of 26 passes.



TONY DIMO/AP

Michigan defensive back Brad Hawkins (20) celebrates a tackle against Western Michigan with Aidan Hutchinson (97), Josh Ross (12), and Tyree Kinnel (23). Michigan's top-ranked defense will be out to end Wisconsin's run of 17 straight Big Ten regular-season wins.

"That was a game that we had it won," Bush said. "There were opportunities that we missed and we didn't capitalize on them. I think this year we're a lot better at that."

This year, Ole Miss transfer quarterback Shea Patterson has directed Michigan to five straight wins after a season-opening loss at Notre Dame. He's completing nearly 69 percent of his passes.

Bush and the nation's top-ranked defense will have to contain sophomore running back Jonathan Taylor and steady junior quarterback Alex Hornibrook to end Wisconsin's run of 17 straight Big Ten regular-season wins, currently the nation's longest such streak.

Wisconsin (4-1, 2-0) tripped up on Sept. 15 with a 24-21 home loss to BYU but took down Iowa and Nebraska since to open Big Ten play.

Hornibrook is 24-4 as Wisconsin's starter, including 18-2 in the Big Ten.

"He has really good stature in the pocket," Harbaugh said. "He can get hot. He throws those intermediate dig routes as well as anyone can. He's a very experienced player in big games. He's a really good quarterback. Really good quarterbacks, players, they're going to give you problems."

Taylor, who rushed for 221 yards and three touchdowns as the Badgers thrashed winless Nebraska 41-24 on Saturday, is guided by an excellent offensive line, notably center Tyler Bidadas, tackle David Edwards and guards Michael Deiter and Beau Benzschawel.



No. 15 Wisconsin (4-1, 2-0)
at No. 12 Michigan (5-1, 3-0)

AFN-Sports 2

1:30 a.m. Sunday CET

8:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

"Both sides of the ball, they're really good on both lines and physical," Harbaugh said. "I'm going through that right now, how difficult it is — because right now, they're superior."

Wisconsin has won five of its last eight games with Michigan, which leads the overall series 50-15-1. Harbaugh did not offer any updates on his injured players, including defensive end Rashan Gary (shoulder), who missed Michigan's 42-21 win against Maryland on Saturday; defensive linemen Michael Dwumfour and Carlo Kemp, who left the game with apparent foot or leg injuries. Running back Chris Evans has missed three straight games with a leg strain but practiced last week.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Top 25 schedule

Friday
No. 23 South Florida at Tulsa
Saturday
No. 1 Alabama vs. Missouri
No. 2 Georgia at No. 13 LSU
No. 3 Ohio State vs. Minnesota
No. 5 Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh
No. 6 West Virginia at Iowa State
No. 7 Washington at No. 17 Oregon
No. 8 Penn State vs. Michigan State
No. 9 Texas vs. Baylor
No. 10 UCF at Memphis
No. 12 Michigan vs. 15 Wisconsin
No. 14 Florida at Vanderbilt
No. 16 Miami at Virginia
No. 19 Colorado at Southern Cal
No. 21 Auburn vs. Tennessee
No. 22 Texas A&M at South Carolina

Service academies



at San Diego State
Last week: Beat Navy
35-7



at San Jose State
Last week: Did not play



vs. Temple
Last week: Lost to Air
Force, 35-7

Power Five standings

ACC		Atlantic		Coastal		Big 12		Big Ten		Pac-12		SEC	
	Conf.		Overall										
Clemson	2	0	2										
NC State	2	0	2										
Boston College	1	2	3										
Syracuse	1	2	3										
Florida State	0	2	2										
Wake Forest	0	2	2										
Louisville	0	3	3										
Miami	2	0	2										
Texas Tech	2	0	2										
Pittsburgh	1	1	2										
Virginia	1	1	2										
North Carolina	1	1	2										
Georgia Tech	1	1	2										
Duke	1	1	2										
West Virginia	3	0	3										
Texas	3	0	3										
Oklahoma	2	1	3										
Baylor	2	1	3										
TCU	1	1	2										
Texas Tech	1	1	2										
Iowa State	1	2	3										
Oklahoma State	1	2	3										
Kansas	0	3	3										
Kansas State	0	3	3										
Ohio State	3	0	3										
Michigan	3	0	3										
Penn State	1	1	2										
Maryland	1	1	2										
Michigan State	1	1	2										
Indiana	0	2	2										
Rutgers	0	3	3										
Wisconsin	2	0	2										
Northwestern	2	0	2										
Illinois	1	1	2										
Furdue	0	2	2										
Minnesota	0	2	2										
Nebraska	0	3	3										
Washington	3	0	3										
Stanford	2	1	3										
Washington State	1	1	2										
Oregon	1	1	2										
California	0	2	2										
Oregon State	0	3	3										
Colorado	2	0	2										
USC	2	1	3										
Arizona	1	1	2										
Utah	1	1	2										
Arizona State	1	2	3										
UCLA	0	2	2										
Georgia	4	0	4										
Kentucky	3	1	4										
Florida	3	1	4										
South Carolina	2	2	4										
Missouri	0	2	2										
Vanderbilt	0	2	2										
Tennessee	0	2	2										
Alabama	3	0	3										
LSU	2	1	3										
Texas A&M	1	2	3										
Mississippi State	1	2	3										
Mississippi	1	2	3										
Arkansas	0	3	3										



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Washington running back Myles Gaskin, left, stiff-arms UCLA linebacker Tyree Thompson on Saturday. Gaskin and the No. 7 Huskies travel to No. 17 Oregon for a Pac-12 showdown on Saturday.

Key Power Five matchups

No. 2 Georgia at No. 13 LSU
9:30 p.m. Saturday, CET;
3:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT
AFN-Sports2

Series record: LSU leads 16-13-1.
What's at stake? Georgia needs to win to remain in pole position to win the SEC East and build its case for a College Football Playoff berth. LSU wants to bounce back from an upset at Florida and maintain control of its own fate as it tries to challenge No. 1 Alabama for supremacy in the SEC West.

Key matchup: If LSU's secondary wants to back up its "DBU" moniker, then it'll need to frustrate Georgia QB Jake Fromm, who has completed a strong run game by completing nearly 73 percent of his passes for 1,200 yards and 12 touchdowns against just two interceptions.

Players to watch: Georgia: OLB D'Andre Walker. He is thriving as an edge rusher with four sacks and three forced fumbles.

LSU: S Grant Delpit. He has been effective blitzing and in coverage. He leads the Tigers with three interceptions, three sacks, four QB hurries and 6½ tackles for loss. His 37 tackles rank second on the team.

Facts & figures: The Bulldogs haven't visited Death Valley since RB Knowshon Moreno, QB Matthew Stafford and WR A.J. Green helped Georgia put up 52 points in a two-TD triumph in 2008. Bulldogs LB Darryl Gamble also returned two interceptions for TDs. ... These teams have played 10 previous times when both were ranked between 1987 and 2013 and have split those games evenly. ... Georgia has won the past two meetings, defeating the Tigers 44-41 in Athens in 2013. ... Georgia is scoring 42.8 points per game while its 13 points allowed per game ranks second nationally. ... The Bulldogs have won every game this season by at least two TDs. ... Under coach Ed Orgeron, LSU has yet to lose two straight, going 6-0 in games following a loss. Also under Orgeron, LSU is 14-0 when it has a 100-yard rusher. ... LSU RB Nick Brossette is averaging 96 yards per game after rushing for 95 last week at Florida.

No. 7 Washington at No. 17 Oregon
9:30 p.m. Saturday, CET
3:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT
AFN-Atlantic

Series record: Washington leads 60-45-5.
What's at stake: Control of the Pac-12 North race is at stake in the first visit by the Huskies to Autzen Stadium since their stunning 70-21 pummeling of the Ducks two years ago. Washington had a shaky second half last week in a 31-24 win over winless UCLA. Oregon is coming off a week of rest. After winning 12 straight games in the series, the Ducks have been outscored 108-24 in the past two meetings with the Huskies.

Key matchup: Oregon run game vs. Washington defensive front. For all the attention on QB Justin Herbert, it's the freshman trio of RBs Travis Dye, Cyrus Habibi-Likio and C.J. Verdell that make Oregon's offense work. Verdell already had three 100-yard games, while Habibi-Likio is second in the Pac-12 with six rushing touchdowns. Washington's run defense ranks third in the conference.

Players to watch: Washington: RB Myles Gaskin. A week ago Gaskin rushed for 116 yards against UCLA, but appeared to be bothered by his shoulder late in the game. Gaskin and coach Chris Petersen have said the star running back is fine and the Huskies need him to be. Gaskin has topped 100 yards in all three of his career games against Oregon.

Oregon: Herbert. His first start came against Washington two years ago. Last year, Herbert was injured and did not play against the Huskies. He has been tremendous this season, especially against Pac-12 foes where he's completing 76 percent of his passes.

Facts & figures: First time in program history Oregon has faced three consecutive ranked programs while also being ranked. ... Washington LB Ben Burkin is third in the nation in total tackles, forced fumbles and fumble recoveries. ... Oregon has lost its last two games against top-10 teams at home. Had won previous six. ... Washington WR Aaron Fuller has at least 100 yards receiving in four of six games.

No. 15 Wisconsin at No. 12 Michigan
1:30 a.m. Sunday, CET;
8:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT
AFN-Sports2

Series record: Michigan leads 50-15-1.

What's at stake? Both teams need a win to bolster their chance to reach the Big Ten championship game and to possibly earn a spot in the College Football Playoff.

Key matchup: Wisconsin QB Alex Hornibrook against Michigan's defense. Hornibrook has won each of his last 10 road games, completing 68 percent of his passes with 18 TDs and just three interceptions. The Wolverines are giving up a nation-low 134 yards passing a game. Hornibrook was 9 of 25 for a career-low 36 percent with a TD and a career-high three INTs two years ago at the Big House.

Players to watch: Wisconsin: RB Jonathan Taylor. The sophomore is averaging a nation-high 169 yards rushing and has run for 200-plus yards twice this season. Taylor had 19 carries for 132 yards in last year's 24-10 win over Michigan at home.

Michigan: QB Shea Patterson. He has thrown 10 TDs and two INTs since not throwing for a score and having an INT in the season-opening loss to Notre Dame. Patterson has connected on 69 percent of his passes for 1,187 yards.

Facts & figures: Wisconsin has won a record 17 Big Ten regular-season games in a row, the nation's longest active streak in a conference, since losing to Ohio State on Oct. 15, 2016. ... The Wolverines' last win against a ranked Big Ten team was Oct. 1, 2016, against the eighth-ranked Badgers. ... Badgers coach Paul Chryst is 15-1 on the road. ... The Wolverines lead the nation in total defense, giving up 230.5 yards per game. ... Wisconsin is the only team in the Big Ten's West Division without a conference loss. ... Michigan DE Chase Winovich is averaging 1.8 tackles for losses, leading the Big Ten and ranking No. 13 in the country.

—Associated Press

MLB PLAYOFFS



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Milwaukee Brewers third baseman Mike Moustakas, center, joins teammates in celebrating after the final out of Game 3 of their National League Division Series against the Colorado Rockies on Sunday in Denver. The Brewers won 6-0 to sweep the series in three games and move on to the National League Championship Series.

Moustakas' playoff experience pivotal

2-time All-Star has been steady presence for Brewers team playing in postseason for 1st time since '11

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — It sounds, at first, like a long, drawn out “Booooo!”

But look at the name on the scoreboard and it becomes apparent what fans at Miller Park are really chanting.

“Moongoose!”

Mike Moustakas has been a hit with fans and teammates with the Milwaukee Brewers since being acquired from the Kansas City Royals two-plus months ago. They appreciate his solid third base defense, and his left-handed power stroke was key in getting Milwaukee through the NL Division Series. In the clubhouse, his focused demeanor and extensive postseason experience have made him a source of steadiness for a club playing in the postseason for the first time since 2011.

“Amazing, amazing. He’s a great teammate,” said utility man Hernan Perez, who has a locker near Moustakas. “He’s been in this situation.”

Moustakas and current Brewers center fielder Lorenzo Cain helped Kansas City reach the World Series twice, including their championship run in 2015. Moustakas is one step away from a Series return with Milwaukee. Game 1 of the NL Championship Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers is Friday night at Miller Park.

Moustakas hit .364 in a three-game sweep of the Colorado Rockies in the NLDS with two RBIs. He had a game-ending, two-out RBI single in the 10th inning in Game 1 and an RBI single in eighth inning of Game 2 to help break open what

‘The more experience that you can gain, the better off you’re going to be.’

Mike Moustakas
Milwaukee Brewers’ third baseman

had been a 1-0 game.

A cool hand in tense moments. Exactly what Milwaukee had in mind for its mid-season acquisition.

“The more experience that you can gain, the better off you’re going to be,” Moustakas said before a team workout on Wednesday.

Overall, Moustakas is hitting .234 with six homers and 17 RBIs in 34 games over eight postseason series.

“But his experience, it’s important. It really is,” manager Craig Counsell said last week. “Making sure we don’t put the result ahead of the process in our at-bats, and I think Moose is doing a heck of a job of that.”

His good friend Cain helped ease the transition to Milwaukee, but the Brewers also had to get creative to add Moustakas to the lineup, with Travis Shaw already on the team as the regular third baseman.

Someone had to move.

Shaw accepted a switch to second base, a new position and potentially awkward fit for the 230-pound slugger. The rationale was that the Brewers employ so many infield shifts, lining up at second wouldn’t be a hard transition. Moustakas also volunteered to move over.

Shaw stuck at second and has played

fairly well, allowing the Brewers to have three lefty bats in the lineup to go with MVP front-runner Christian Yelich.

“It says volumes of the kind of player that he is and the kind of person he is,” Moustakas said about Shaw. “I think the unselfishness of him and this team is why I’m a good fit, because they let me come in here, play third. Just be myself and that’s huge.”

The playoff run in Milwaukee winds down an eventful year for Moustakas that started with a disappointing offseason.

After setting the Royals’ single-season home run record with 38 in 2017, Moustakas filed for free agency. He rejected a \$17.4 million qualifying offer in November.

Moustakas never received the multi-year, mega-million dollar contract he and his agent Scott Boras had anticipated. The Royals signed Moustakas to a one-year, \$6.5 million contract in March with a mutual option for 2019.

“It’s definitely been an interesting year, but I’m very happy with the way everything turned out,” Moustakas said last week. “I was able to sign back with Kansas City, I got traded here and now I’m in the postseason again. Everything happens for a reason. ... I’m just really happy to be here.”

Cora: Red Sox manager looking to knock out his former team

FROM BACK PAGE

youngest, too. His first season is already a success, with a franchise-record 108 victories, a third consecutive AL East title and the team’s first playoff series win since 2013.

Now he has to do it again — against his former boss, A.J. Hinch, whose Astros swept Cleveland in the ALDS. Games 1 and 2 are Saturday and Sunday before the series moves to Houston for three more, if necessary.

“I don’t know too much about them. Just they have a good team,” Cora said coyly on Tuesday night. “What they did to the Indians, that was impressive. It seems like they’re playing their best baseball of the season at the right time.”

And so are the Red Sox, thanks to Cora.

In his first postseason series as a manager, he seemed to make all the right decisions, like starting Brock Holt in Game 3 and seeing him hit for the only postseason cycle in baseball history. And then he put Holt back on the bench in Game 4 and watched Ian Kinsler come through with a key RBI double.

“We’re very fortunate to have a guy in A.C., who is not very far removed from playing the game, which definitely helps,” Red Sox reliever Matt Barnes said. “You have a guy who won the World Series last year, so he knows what it takes to win a World Series.”

“It seemed like every button he’s pushing is the right one. I think he’s got a great feel for the game. He understands the game. He does a great job of managing and communicating with everybody on what’s going on, and I think it showed in this series, and it will be awesome moving forward.”

Hinch said he is happy for his former assistant, who was a sounding board on strategy and preparation and took over when Hinch was ejected.

“I’m trying to remember some things that I told him that I wish I wouldn’t have,” Hinch said Wednesday when the Astros worked out for the first time since learning their next opponent.

“The bench coach and the manager are really tight,” Hinch said. “He was obviously right next to me every step of the way. As a bench coach, you’re kind of involved in everything (but) maybe master of nothing when it comes to not being in charge.”

Cora also served as a link to the players, a role that has served him well in Boston. Red Sox players — including a couple that were Cora’s teammates when he was with the team from 2005-08 — praised the reliability of their 42-year-old manager after five years with the more traditional and distant John Farrell.

The Astros saw it as well.

“He was a great coach and he meant a lot to me,” Houston shortstop Carlos Correa said Wednesday. “Getting to spend a full season with him last year was pretty special. I learned a lot of things from him. He’s a brilliant mind. He knows a lot about the game.”

Hinch and Cora have maintained a friendship through their year apart, even exchanging text messages through the first round.

That’s going to stop.

“He’s encouraged me. I’ve encouraged him,” Hinch said. “The banter, the conversations will probably minimize a little bit over the next couple of days.”

MLB PLAYOFFS

ALDS: 21-6 run differential; .327 batting average; 8 homers; 0 errors

Awesome ASTROS

Houston puts on
spectacular show
in advancing to ALCS

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

When the challenge arose in August, the Houston Astros responded like champions.

They're doing it again in October.

Two months ago, last year's World Series winners hit one of those predictable lulls that every team encounters during the dog days of a season. Maybe feeling a bit overconfident and invincible, the Astros were caught atop the AL West by the Oakland Athletics, a scrappy squad that sneaked up on everyone in 2018.

Just when it appeared the Astros might be in some trouble, they switched on their after-burners. After Aug. 18, Houston went 29-10 to finish with 103 wins.

"There is an extra gear that our guys have," manager A.J. Hinch said. "And once we hit the postseason, it looks like, as of right now, our guys really, really turned it on."

Showing no weaknesses while exposing the Cleveland Indians' flaws at every opportunity, the Astros took a step toward defending their crown with a surprising easy three-game AL Division Series sweep.

Houston outscored Cleveland 21-6. The Astros outthrew the Indians .327 to .144 and banged out eight homers without making an error.

The Astros, who gave themselves time to relax while Boston and New York slugged it out in the other ALDS, can win

in so many different ways.

They have one of baseball's best rotations, anchored by Justin Verlander and Gerrit Cole, a devastating 1-2 pitching punch that staggered the Indians in Houston. The Astros can play long ball, small ball and any kind of ball needed with a balanced lineup loaded with contact hitters.

Sure, they've got All-Stars in Jose Altuve and Alex Bregman, but the Astros are a selfless group that plays as one.

"We have the most complete team in baseball," Verlander said between puffs on a cigar as his teammates showered each other with champagne in the clubhouse.

"I've been part of really special teams, but the drive to win here trumps everything else. Everybody is OK with whoever is the hero."

It was Verlander in Game 1, Marvin Gonzalez in Game 2, and George Springer was among a number of de-

serving candidates with two homers in Game 3.

Springer has found his groove at the right time. The 2017 World Series MVP was sidelined by a sprained left thumb that landed him on the disabled list in August. He struggled after returning and connected on just three homers in the final six weeks of the regular season.

The postseason is his playground.

Springer hit three homers in the final two ALDS games, giving him a franchise record 10 postseason homers.

"I said this to our team in there — special teams do special things in October," Hinch said. "And I believe that about players. George is one of them. We've seen him come up as an uber-prospect, produce at an uncanny level, hit the lowest of the lows in the World Series and then be

the World Series MVP.

"I don't think this should surprise anyone.

He's a really special player."

On a really special team.

Before his team was pushed aside by the Astros, Indians manager Terry Francona sat at his office desk and described what makes them so good.

"Well, besides the talent, because they are obviously really talented, I do think they do a really good job of playing until the game's over," he said. "Like it's been noticeable for a while. You know some times, like I think I said this the other day, when you beat them, sometimes they just run out of time."

Verlander arrived last season to help the Astros get over the hump, and now that they have, there's no going backward.

"At no point this season was there any complacency with this team," he said. "If I had been traded here after they won the World Series, instead of before it last year, I would have assumed this was a young and hungry team when I walked in the clubhouse."

"No one takes anything for granted here. That's the DNA of the guys in this clubhouse. This team has a propensity to do big things in big spots."

Astros pitcher Justin Verlander anchors one of the best rotations in baseball.

"I've been part of really special teams, but the drive to win here trumps everything else," he said after Houston swept the Cleveland Indians in the ALDS. "Everybody is OK with whoever is the hero."

ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Top: George Springer hit three homers in the final two ALDS games against Cleveland.

DAVID DENNEN/AP

NFL

Bills' White keeps focus despite woes

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Tre'Davious White had personal reasons for not sticking around to address questions from the media on Wednesday. The second-year cornerback, understandably, has plenty weighing on his mind.

On Sunday, White faces the challenge of defending DeAndre Hopkins, the NFL's leading receiver, in Buffalo's game at Houston. Last week, he learned the unsettling news of his mother being arrested for domestic violence for allegedly stabbing a man, according to TMZ and several television affiliates in northern Louisiana.

"I can't talk today," White said, pulling on his backpack and heading for the exit. "I've got to make a run."

What's not in doubt is White being ready Sunday.

"I think Tre's always focused," safety Jordan Poyer said of the second-year cornerback. "I think he's got it at home, you know, 'Each week this is the guy I've got to stop,' because that's what we expect of him. We all have confidence in him."

White hasn't lost a step in following an impressive rookie season in which he was one of only two NFL players to force five takeaways (four interceptions and a forced fumble and recovery) in the fourth quarter.

It was enough for him to finish second behind Saints cornerback Marshon Lattimore in Defensive Rookie of the Year voting.

This season, White's held his own in taking over the job defending an opponent's top receiver on a full-time basis. He limited Chargers receiver Keenan Allen to six catches for 67 yards in Week 2, Minnesota's Stefon Diggs to four catches for 17 yards in Week 3, and Green Bay's Davante Adams to eight catches for 81 yards, though he didn't cover Adams when he lined up in the slot.

White is doing his part while the starting job opposite him re-

mains unsettled due to injuries and after projected starter Vontae Davis left the team during halftime against the Chargers and then retired.

"To be able to have a guy like him, who has the athletic ability and the mental toughness to match up and get us through some tough situations is a luxury," defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier said.

Bills coach Sean McDermott is impressed by how White, 23, has taken over the role of being the team's top shutdown cornerback.

"It's a little bit unique with a young player like Tre'Davious to be able to do it this early," McDermott said before noting how White wasn't drafted until the 27th pick.

White was a four-year starter at LSU, where he earned All-America honors in his senior year. As a freshman, he developed his craft by going up against Tigers receivers Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry in practice. In games, White's first career interception was against current Dallas Cowboys starter Dak Prescott.

Bills receiver Kelvin Benjamin is so impressed by White's ability to burst on the ball he refers to his teammate as "Quick-feet Tre."

"It's stupid. It's stupid," Benjamin said, shaking his head in wonder of White's speed. "You've got to attack the ball as a wide receiver when he's on you. And, he's only going to get better."

Good as White might already be, he has far loftier goals.

"I've told myself, I don't want to come into this game and just be a cornerback in the league," he told The Associated Press in August.

White acknowledged he's fueled by a fear of failure. It's what motivated him as a teenager to become the first in his family to go to college and escape the tough neighborhoods of his hometown of Shreveport, La.

"It's a fear of not being the best. I can be. It's a fear of going back to the situations I came from, just growing up," White said.



D. ROSS CAMERON/AP

Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch (24) will be facing the Seattle Seahawks, his old team, for the first time since he came out of retirement in 2017.

Lynch, back in 'Beast Mode,' faces old team for first time

By JOSH DUBOW
The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Oakland may always be home for Marshawn Lynch, but Seattle was the city that truly made him a star.

There was the "Beast Quake" run that set the tone for the Pete Carroll era with the Seahawks. The Skittles that rained down on the field after his big runs. The ferocious running style that inspired teammates.

As much as those Seattle teams were known for the "Legion of Boom" secondary and Russell Wilson's escape acts, the "Beast Mode" runs helped Seattle establish its dominance. That's also been the missing ingredient for Seattle these past few years after he retired and then came back with his hometown Oakland Raiders.

The Seahawks (2-3) will get an up-close look at Lynch again this week for the first time since he retired following the 2015 season. They travel to London to face the Raiders (1-4).

"He looks like he got faster," linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "When he was here he wasn't breaking away from people. Now it looks like he can break away from people. He looks quicker. Looks stronger. It's going to be a dope challenge if they give him the ball a lot. They haven't really been giving him the ball all that much. I don't know if it's because of scores or whatever, but definitely know he's going to want to run the ball against us, so got to be ready."

Lynch is still going strong at age 32, ranking ninth in the league in rushing with 331 yards and still doling out the punishment on defenders that has him headed on a path that Raiders coach Jon Gruden believes will end at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"It's a credit to him that he can play like that week in, week out, year in, year out with that style of play," Gruden said. "He's not looking to go out of bounds. He's looking to make yardage after contact in every situation. I respect it about him. I think the league respects it about him."

The powerful runs and prodigious production come with a price at times. Lynch also has some quirks that can drive some in the organization nuts.

'It's going to be a dope challenge if they give him the ball a lot.'

Seahawks LB Bobby Wagner
On facing former teammate Marshawn Lynch

There was the time in Seattle when he wore holdout safety Kam Chancellor's jersey to practice, declared himself out of a playoff game just before the team left for Minnesota, or his refusal to do interviews despite NFL rules requiring them.

The Raiders have seen that side of Lynch as well. He got ejected from a game last season when he ran on the field to try to break up a fight between close friend and then-Kansas City cornerback Marcus Peters and his own Raiders teammates. Lynch got suspended for a game for showing an official.

Then last week, in a scene that must have been all too painful for the Seahawks to watch, he tossed his helmet in frustration after teammate Derek Carr threw an interception instead of handing Lynch the ball on the 1-yard line. That brought back memories of the Seahawks' fateful decision to throw a pass from the 1 at the end of the Super Bowl in 2015, only to have Malcolm Butler intercept Wilson at the goal line to give New England a Super Bowl title that Seattle had been poised to win.

Lynch lasted just one more injury-plagued year with the Seahawks that was marked by his decision not to travel to a playoff game in Minnesota because he didn't feel healthy enough — even though he had practiced all week and was a major part of the game plan.

Lynch announced his retirement a month later by tweeting a picture of his cleats hanging from a utility wire shortly after the end of the Super Bowl, and stayed home for the entire 2016 season.

But when the hometown Raiders announced plans to move to Las Vegas in 2020, Lynch was motivated to come out of retirement to play in Oakland.



MOORE CASH/AP

Buffalo Bills' defensive back Tre'Davious White, right, will face DeAndre Hopkins, the NFL's leading receiver, on Sunday when Buffalo faces the Texans at Houston.

NFL



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Patriots linebacker Kyle Van Noy hits Colts quarterback Andrew Luck after he threw a pass last week.

Better starts could help Colts lighten Luck's load

BY MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Andrew Luck's surgically repaired right shoulder is being tested in ways even he couldn't imagine.

The Indianapolis Colts quarterback threw 121 passes during a five-day span last week — easily the highest total he's accrued in consecutive games.

Dropping back so frequently subjects Luck to more potential hits and more potential injuries as well.

And it's something the Colts know must change if they intend to keep Luck on the field for the final 11 games.

"I think for us a big part of it is we need more success early," said coach Frank Reich, a former NFL quarterback.

"Let's not get behind, let's play good, sound football, let's not beat ourselves in all three phases. Let's stay in the game, don't get behind, stay patient with the runs and then have some success early with the run game that gives you the confidence to keep going back to it."

Circumstances primarily dictated the Colts' play-calls against Houston and New England.

Luck had to throw on nearly every play after the Colts fell into an 18-point, third-quarter deficit against the Texans. He led the Colts to a late, tying score that forced overtime before Indy lost 37-34.

On Thursday, Luck helped Indy cut a 21-point halftime deficit to seven in the fourth quarter before losing 38-24 at New England.

It's been a recurring theme this season.

Luck also had the Colts (1-4) in position for go-ahead touchdowns in the final two minutes against Cincinnati in the season opener and at Philadelphia in Week 3, only to come up short both times.

But the expanded workload has shown up in the numbers.

Luck's 245 attempts through five games lead the league and have him on pace to throw 784 times this season, a number that would shatter Matthew Stafford's single-season record of 727 from 2012.

In the past two games, Luck broke the franchise's single-game record with 62 attempts against Houston and matched Jeff George's previous mark (59) against the Patriots.

It's uncharted territory for Luck, who never threw more than 63 passes in back-to-back games at Stanford, never threw more than 99 passes in any previous two-game stretch in the NFL and can't even remember a time in high school when he threw so frequently.

So far, Luck's arm seems to be just fine.

"Physically, I feel better and better," he said Wednesday. "I think there's been a concerted effort in this locker room so guys continue to progress physically, stay strong, keep getting strong and not to plateau. I subscribe to that theory and I think it's paying off in the recovery from games, the recovery from throwing a bunch of throws and I'm excited to keep rolling."

While game situations certainly have forced more throws than Reich scripted, injuries to Luck's supporting cast haven't helped, either.

Starting running back Marlon Mack missed four of the first five games with a hamstring injury. He hopes to return Sunday against the New York Jets (2-3).

Backup running back Robert Turbin, Indy's short-yardage specialist, returned last week after missing the first four games for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancers.

Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton couldn't finish the Houston game and sat out against New England with a hamstring injury, and Pro Bowl tight end Jack Doyle has missed three straight games with an injured hip.

Indy's starting offensive line also has been in flux. Left tackle Anthony Castonzo (hamstring) might make his season debut this weekend and the Colts already have used four different starters at right tackle.

The good news is Denzel Good returned to practice Wednesday after missing the last week following the death of his brother, Overton, in a drive-by shooting in South Carolina and could return Sunday.

But right guard Matt Slauson, who started each of Indy's first five games, will miss the rest of the season after breaking two vertebrae against New England. Rookie Braden Smith, who started last week at right tackle, could return to his more natural spot on the interior line in Slauson's absence.

"There are a couple of different options we're looking at and obviously we're pretty geared into it," Reich said. "We'll evaluate that over the next few days."

But through it all, Luck has provided stability and continuity with an arm that appears to be getting stronger by the week.

"You have that weekend off, which is sort of nice especially in the one sense if you win — not so much if you lose," he said. "We have to run the ball a little more effectively to give ourselves a consistent chance to win."

Pats prepping for versatile Mahomes

Belichick's track record of making things difficult for young QBs will be put to test

BY KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — When Bill Belichick was asked Monday what he liked about Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, his answer sounded a lot like everyone else's this season.

"Pretty much everything," Belichick said of the second-year player as the Patriots began preparations for Sunday night's matchup with Kansas City (5-0).

"He gets the ball to all of his receivers quick, quick release, sees things quickly, can extend plays, got a great arm, got a fabulous arm, can throw the ball out of the stadium."

It was glowing praise from a coach who has a track record of finding ways to make things difficult for young quarterbacks.

Belichick will now turn his attention to the 23-year-old Mahomes, who has been the talk of the NFL, throwing for 1,513 yards, 14 touchdowns and just two interceptions through five games.

Mahomes has taken control of Andy Reid's offense, using his legs and arm to lead a group that is averaging a league-best 35 points per game.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said during his weekly radio appearance on Boston's WEEI that young quarterbacks such as Mahomes and rookies Sam Darnold, Baker Mayfield, Josh Allen and Josh Rosen are taking advantage of the early opportunities they've gotten.

"A lot of those guys are being thrown into the mix," Brady said. "Some of those guys are playing really well. It's pretty awesome. I was a fourth-string quarterback when I was a rookie, so I was sitting in the stands, eating nachos before games. I wasn't playing. ... Some other guys have had those chances. And when you're thrown into the mix it's really impressive."

It will be a big challenge for New England's defense, which is giving up 366 yards per game and has had trouble defending the pass.

Patriots cornerback coach Josh Boyer said one of the underrated parts of Mahomes' game is his ability to use his legs to set up deep passes.

"With Mahomes in particular, one, he can make all the throws he needs to make, has a very strong arm. He also has a great ability to extend plays, whether he's going to do that running or extending it and scramble to give his receivers time to get open," Boyer said.

"So, we've got to do a great job being where we need to be, using our help in coverage if we have any, and making sure that we're tight on receivers in competitive situations."

Cornerback Stephen Gilmore said he expects Mahomes to be a handful to defend.

"He's a great quarterback," Gilmore said. "He's playing really good right now. He's making some big throws and he's got a lot of good weapons around him. They're 5-0 for a reason."

Josh Boyer
Patriots CBs coach



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, right, celebrates a touchdown with offensive lineman Cam Erving and wide receiver Sammy Watkins, left, against Jacksonville on Sunday.



GAMEDAY

WEEK 6

TELEVISED GAMES



Marquee matchup

Kansas City Chiefs (5-0) at New England Patriots (3-2)

AFN-Sports2, 2:15 a.m. Monday CET; 9:15 a.m. Monday JKT

Seattle Seahawks (2-3)
vs. Oakland Raiders (1-4)
at London
AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Raiders lead 28-24.

Last meeting: Seahawks beat Raiders 30-24, Nov. 2, 2014.

Notes: Seahawks have won two of past three meetings. ... Seattle QB Russell Wilson has 21 TDs vs. 5 INTs for 114.8 rating in his past six on road vs. AFC. ... Former Seahawk RB Marshawn Lynch has 284 scrimmage yards (94.7 per game) and a rushing TD in past three games.



Pittsburgh Steelers (2-2-1) at Cincinnati Bengals (4-1)

AFN-Sports2
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Steelers lead 60-35.

Last meeting: Steelers beat Bengals 23-20, Dec. 4, 2017.

Notes: Steelers have won past five meetings. ... Steelers coach Mike Tomlin is 17-5 against Bengals, while Marvin Lewis is 8-22 against Pittsburgh. ... Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger has 90+ rating in two of past three meetings. ... Bengals WR A.J. Green had 77 rec. yards and 2 TDs in last meeting.

SERIES RECORD: Chiefs lead 18-14-3.

LAST MEETING: Chiefs beat Patriots 42-27, Sept. 7, 2017.

AP PRO32 RANKING: Chiefs No. 2, Patriots No. 4.

CHIEFS OFFENSE: OVERALL (5), RUSH (11), PASS (11).

CHIEFS DEFENSE: OVERALL (32), RUSH (24), PASS (31).

PATRIOTS OFFENSE: OVERALL (22), RUSH (13), PASS (21).

PATRIOTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (16), RUSH (21), PASS (14).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Chiefs are 7-10-2 in games played at New England (1-4 at Gillette Stadium including playoffs). ... Chiefs have won last two regular-season meetings. ... Patriots won lone playoff meeting between teams during 2015 season. ... Chiefs coach Andy Reid needs one win to become ninth in NFL history with 200. ... QB Patrick Mahomes needs one more 300-yard passing game for Chiefs-record five straight. ... Mahomes has 14 TD passes against two interceptions, best ratio in NFL. ... Mahomes has won each of his first six NFL starts. With win vs. New England, Mahomes would become sixth quarterback since 1970 to win each of his first seven career starts. ... Chiefs are second in NFL in points

per game (35.0) to Saints. ... Chiefs RB Kareem Hunt leads league with 422 touches since last fumble, which occurred on first career carry last season at New England. ... Patriots have outscored opponents 76-31 in two consecutive wins. ... QB Tom Brady has NFL-record 199 career regular-season victories and can become first quarterback in league history to get 200 for his career. ... Rookie RB Sony Michel has 100-plus scrimmage yards and TD in each of last two games. ... TE Rob Gronkowski has four TD catches in his past seven games at home. ... S Devin McCourty had 10 tackles and fumble return in last meeting.

— Associated Press

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Also on AFN:

Monday Night Football: San Francisco 49ers (1-4) at Green Bay Packers (2-2-1), AFN-Sports2, 2:15 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9:15 a.m. Tuesday JKT

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
New England	3	2	0	.600	133	108	3-0-0	2-2-0	3-1-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
Miami	2	3	0	.400	99	117	2-0-0	1-2-0	3-2-0	0-0-0	1-1-0
Buffalo	2	3	0	.400	63	118	1-1-1	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	.400	123	105	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-3-0	1-0-0	0-1-0
Tennessee	3	2	0	.600	87	86	2-0-0	1-2-0	2-2-0	1-0-0	2-0-0
Jacksonville	3	2	0	.600	102	86	2-1-0	1-1-0	2-2-0	1-0-0	2-0-0
Houston	2	3	0	.400	115	124	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Indianapolis	1	4	0	.200	118	138	0-2-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Cincinnati	4	1	0	.800	153	130	2-0-0	2-1-0	3-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	132	77	2-0-0	1-2-0	3-2-0	0-0-0	1-2-0
Cleveland	2	2	1	.500	114	113	2-0-1	0-2-0	2-1-1	0-1-0	1-0-1
Pittsburgh	2	2	1	.500	143	133	1-2-0	1-0-1	0-2-1	2-0-0	0-1-1
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	175	129	2-0-0	3-0-0	4-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0
L.A. Chargers	2	3	0	.400	137	130	2-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Denver	3	2	0	.600	100	131	2-1-0	0-2-0	1-3-0	1-0-0	1-1-0
Oakland	1	4	0	.200	107	149	1-1-0	0-3-0	1-3-0	0-1-0	0-2-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
Washington	2	2	0	.500	83	87	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Dallas	2	3	0	.400	83	87	2-0-0	0-3-0	2-2-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400	103	104	2-1-0	0-2-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Giants	1	4	0	.200	104	128	0-2-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-1-0	0-1-0
New Orleans	4	1	0	.800	180	140	2-1-0	2-0-0	3-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0
Carolina	3	1	0	.750	104	91	3-0-0	0-1-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0
Tampa Bay	2	2	0	.500	112	139	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
Atlanta	1	4	0	.200	133	163	1-2-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	0-2-0	1-1-0
Chicago	3	1	0	.750	111	65	2-0-0	1-1-0	3-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Minnesota	2	2	1	.500	113	131	1-1-0	1-1-1	2-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-1
Green Bay	2	2	1	.500	115	114	2-0-1	0-2-0	1-2-1	1-0-0	1-1-1
Detroit	2	3	0	.400	125	137	2-1-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	1-0-0
L.A. Rams	5	0	0	1.000	173	98	3-0-0	2-0-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	116	114	1-1-0	1-2-0	2-2-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
Arizona	1	4	0	.200	65	112	0-3-0	1-1-0	1-4-0	0-0-0	1-2-0
San Francisco	1	4	0	.200	118	146	1-1-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-2-0	0-1-0



Los Angeles Rams (5-0) at Denver Broncos (2-3)

AFN-Sports
10 p.m. Sunday CET
5 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Rams lead 8-5.

Last meeting: Rams beat Broncos 22-7, Nov. 16, 2014.

Notes: Rams have won past three meetings. ... Rams WR Brandin Cooks has 17 receptions for 256 yards and a TD in his last three games against AFC opponents. ... Broncos LB Von Miller had a sack in their last meeting. He has seven sacks and four forced fumbles in his past five games against AFC opponents.



Baltimore Ravens (3-2) at Tennessee Titans (3-2)

AFN-Sports2
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Titans lead 10-9.

Last meeting: Titans beat Ravens 23-20, Nov. 5, 2017.

Notes: Titans have won three of past four meetings. ... Ravens WR Michael Crabtree has 185 receiving yards in his past two games against the Titans. ... Titans QB Marcus Mariota passed for 218 yards and two TDs in last meeting. ... Titans' Jurrell Casey is one of four NFL DTs with three or more sacks (three) in 2018.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Chicago at Miami
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets
Buffalo at Houston
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Arizona at Minnesota
L.A. Chargers at Cleveland
Carolina at Washington
Jacksonville at Dallas
Open: Detroit, New Orleans

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Oct. 18
Denver at Arizona
Sunday, Oct. 21
Tennessee vs. L.A. Chargers at London
Minnesota at N.Y. Jets
Cleveland at Tampa Bay
Detroit at Miami
Houston at Jacksonville
Chicago at Philadelphia
New England at Baltimore
Buffalo at Indianapolis
L.A. Rams at San Francisco
Dallas at Washington
Cincinnati at Kansas City
Open: Seattle, Green Bay, Pittsburgh, Oakland
Monday, Oct. 22
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta

SPORTS



Testing their mettle
No. 2 Georgia facing string of
Top 25 SEC foes » **Page 56**

MLB PLAYOFFS

MAN *with a* PLAN

After Series win with Astros, Cora aims to knock them out

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BOSTON

Alex Cora led Boston to a victory over the hated Yankees. Next up for the first-year Red Sox manager: The team he left after winning a World Series as a bench coach last season.

"I've been talking about them the whole season, so now we go," he said after the Red Sox beat New York 4-3 in Game 4 of the AL Division Series to earn the right to play the Houston Astros for the pennant. "Best of seven. They know me. I know them. It should be fun."

An infielder who spent 14 years with six big league teams, Cora was in Houston for one year before the Red Sox made him the first minority manager in franchise history — and one of its

SEE CORA ON PAGE 58

Inside:

■ Moustakas' presence boosts Brewers, Page 58

'I've been talking about [the Astros] the whole season, so now we go. Best of seven. They know me. I know them. It should be fun.'

Alex Cora

Red Sox manager. Cora was Houston's bench coach during last season's World Series run



Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora

ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Chiefs' Mahomes will be tested by Belichick » Page 62



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